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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19786

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1997 • HESHVAN 27, 5758 • 27 RAJAB 1418

NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.85)



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Levine denies he wants withdrawal from Lebanon

By AMIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine last night denied reports he advocates a unilateral withdrawal from south Lebanon.

But the revelation of growing discomfort about the continued IDF presence in the security zone threatens to thrust the army's private assessments into a public debate over its future there, and may signal that a change in Israel's position is near.

Both Channel 1 and 2 revealed last night that Levine was the senior officer who told a gathering of brigade commanders earlier this week that the IDF had no reason to remain in the security zone.

"We have to hit Hizbullah with all our might and then we need to get out of Lebanon unilaterally, in stages. That's the best solution to the situation there," the officer was quoted as saying.

It also was reported that Levine's deputy shared similar sentiments and

detailed them in a letter sent to Chief of

Shites protest Beit Leif bombings, Page 3

General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

But at a late-night press conference, Levine denied he made the comments

attributed to him.

"I never proposed and do not propose a unilateral withdrawal, nor do I believe that we should hit Hizbullah with only one mighty blow," Levine said.

He added that there were numerous debates in the military on tactics and strategy regarding Lebanon and that officers were able to speak their minds.

"There is full freedom of expression for everyone. Of course there are different opinions and we should be proud that people express themselves freely, even if

it contradicts the sentiments of their

superiors, rather than having 'yes men' taking part," Levine said in Tel Aviv.

He added that there were no simple solutions to the conflict in Lebanon. He said that the aim remains to provide security for the communities in the North and to protect the soldiers. He also said that he was in favor of limited strikes instead of large-scale actions.

"It is important to develop a policy of punishment against Hizbullah and the Lebanese government," Levine said, but

he ruled out any strikes against Syria, Iran or their people in Lebanon.

Still, the statements attributed to Levine suggest he is in the precarious situation of ordering soldiers to remain and fight in Lebanon, while he himself believes they shouldn't be there.

Calls against the current IDF policy in Lebanon reflect two growing positions being held by an increasing number of commanders.

See LEVINE, Page 17

THE AGENDA

The rift with the US

Two issues were on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's agenda this week: appointing a successor to Avigdor Lieberman as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office and the second redeployment, which has been an obstacle to resuming negotiations with the Palestinians.

These issues seem unrelated but they are not. What they have in common is the rift with the US administration.

On Saturday night, Netanyahu phoned former ambassador to the US Zalman Shoval and asked him to come to his house for an important midnight meeting. "Let's talk," he said, without revealing any details of the pending "divorce by mutual consent" with Lieberman.

On the way out of their own meeting with the prime minister that night, Judea and Samaria residents noticed Shoval waiting to be led in. It was only the next day, upon hearing of Lieberman's resignation, that they understood the significance Shoval's presence.

If there's one thing which characterizes Netanyahu even more than the ease with which he gets into trouble, it is the speed with which he manages to put each screw-up behind him and look forward. This trait might not sit well with our long-term collective memory, but it usually helps Netanyahu in the short run.

The proposal to replace Lieberman with Shoval is a perfect example of this trait. The last time Netanyahu offered Shoval a job was in May, when he meant to replace Ambassador Elihu Ben-Eliassir in Washington, but the appointment did not go through.

See AGENDA, Page 8

PM forced to delay pullback vote

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday was forced to put off a cabinet vote on a limited troop pullback in the West Bank to Sunday, at the earliest.

His attempt to link the pullback to a package deal requiring the Palestinian Authority to move from interim to final-status talks generated controversy and dissension in the cabinet.

Six ministers who did not get a chance to speak are slated to present their opinions of Netanyahu's proposal at Sunday's session.

Later, at a meeting of the Likud Knesset faction, Netanyahu presented his party's MKs with his ideas on furthering the process towards final-status talks. He

Sheetrit supports PA state now, Page 2

stressed that the second redeployment would be conditioned on the Palestinians abiding by their commitments and that any further handing over of territory would be part of the permanent arrangements.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein said there are legal problems in not going ahead with the third redeployment, Israel Radio reported.

Although the cabinet convened as a ministerial committee on security, there were no maps to pinpoint the additional areas to be handed over to the PA nor was there a precise specification of the percentage of the West Bank territory involved.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh said the pullback was discussed without reference to the Clinton administration's pressure on Netanyahu to enlarge the area from which IDF troops would withdraw and thereby assure Palestinian acceptance of the proposal.

Netanyahu's bureau announced after the meeting that the prime minister discussed the cabinet's decision-making process with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright by telephone.

Sources believe Netanyahu would relinquish six percent to 8% of the West Bank, thereby giving the PA control over at least 35% of the area between the Green Line and the Jordan River.

Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon gave his cabinet colleagues a blunt assessment of the process under way since the inception of the Oslo Accords three years ago.

"Despite the fact that Israel does not want it, a Palestinian state is coming into existence," he said. Sharon proposed two steps designed to reduce this "danger": designating security zones and strategic assets that must remain under Israeli control; and warning the PA that if a Palestinian state is declared, Israel would immediately annex all the territory on which settlements are situated, as well as their access roads.

The West Bank's security zones and military bases also would become part and parcel of the State of Israel, under Sharon's plan.

Netanyahu took a dim view of Sharon's assessment, arguing that the establishment of a Palestinian state is neither contemplated nor under discussion.

According to Israel Radio, Sharon's three-page plan calls for the annexation of 13 roads near Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Hebron. The roads would be designated as "bypass routes" for Israeli settlers. Sharon also reportedly called for 1,000 more homes for Jews in the 6,500-unit Har Homa project in southeastern Jerusalem.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat contended that the cabinet was actually considering a new approach to the peace process that was "tantamount to 'bypassing Oslo.'"

"It is impossible to implement the third redeployment and only afterwards discuss a final settlement," she said. "First of all, it is necessary to define Israel's vital interests." Everything hinges, she said, on the Palestinians fulfilling their commitments.

Netanyahu's adviser, Uzi Arad, went to Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's top adviser, Osama el-Baz, yesterday.



Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (left), Third Way MK Yehuda Harel (center) and Likud MK Gideon Ezra study a map following yesterday's cabinet meeting on redeployment. (Associated Press)

Clinton, Netanyahu meeting in the works

By HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

WASHINGTON - The White House said yesterday a meeting between President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is in the works.

Press secretary Michael McCurry told reporters no conclusions should be drawn from the two having not met when Netanyahu visited the US earlier this month.

"They're attempting to work out a meeting, and we expect that to be done soon,"

McCurry said. "We've made a decision to have a meeting. I think we're just working out timing. I expect that one will be arranged soon."

The Israeli Embassy had stated Tuesday that on the instructions of Netanyahu's office it had stopped pursuing a meeting, preferring to wait until the White House determined which dates were workable.

Netanyahu yesterday criticized as "unbecoming" Clinton's refusal to meet with him during his recent US trip and suggested he was insulted.

"My own view is that leaders should avoid these kinds of tactics," he said in an interview with Cable News Network.

"It's unbecoming, it doesn't benefit nations who are allies, and even doesn't benefit nations who are not allies."

"I believe that the United States will probably agree with me if they thought about it," he added.

"I think such meetings should be [in] the interest of both leaders.... It's certainly not something that Israel has to pay for," Netanyahu said in the interview.

Milo set to launch new centrist party

Eitan: PM trying to remove me from probe

By SARAH HONIG

The Likud demons briefly reappeared yesterday to haunt Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, when angry Science Minister Michael Eitan accused him of being behind moves to oust him from the party inquiry committee appointed to examine the recent conviction.

Netanyahu hotly denied the assertion at the tail end of yesterday's Likud Knesset faction session, but Eitan said he doesn't buy the denial. The Likud inquiry is slated to get under way today.



It all started yesterday with a move by central committee kingpin Yitzhak Regev, who appealed to the party court to review the composition of the probe team, headed by the court's chairwoman, retired Tel Aviv District Court president Hanna Evcior.

The court will rule on the Regev petition Sunday. Regev noted that the other committee members - Eitan, MK Reuven Rivlin, Hod Hasharon Mayor Ezra Binayim and former Rishon LeZion mayor Hananya Gibstein - are not professional judges.

Regev reminded the court that the party constitution clearly specifies that such party probes are to be conducted only by professional judges from outside the party. The probe team, nominated by Netanyahu, hardly meets this specification, Regev charged.

His additional point was that even if the party court rejects his petition, it should at least remove

Eitan from the committee since "he had previously expressed extremely sharp-winded opinions calling vociferously for the ouster of Avigdor Lieberman from the office of director-general of the Prime Minister's Office."

Lieberman had since resigned on his own, but Regev said that considering Eitan's pronouncements, he "has no business serving on a probe team when he had already reached a one-sided conclusion before any inquiry had gotten under way."

Regev cited the precedent of former Mossad chief Nahum Admoni, who was removed from the committee investigating the Mashaal Affair because he had expressed his views in a radio interview.

Eitan yesterday charged that the man who sent Regev to file his petition to the party court was none other than Moshe Leon, currently Netanyahu's bureau

chief, and reportedly a candidate to succeed him.

Netanyahu replied by stating his disbelief and had Leon summoned immediately. The *Jerusalem Post* was told by two witnesses to the exchange between the prime minister and Eitan that Netanyahu then exclaimed: "This is utter slander. You know that no one would send anyone to do anything of the sort. I personally included your name as part of the team."

But when Leon showed up and tried to have his say, Eitan refused to listen and said he doesn't believe him and that Leon is Lieberman's man.

"I am ready to resign from the government if I am wrong," he said. According to Eitan, Leon went to Likud legal adviser Eitan Haberman to ask if he can remain on the inquiry committee in view of his utterances.

See EITAN, Page 17

Bassiouny: US fears stalled peace process will aid Islamic extremists

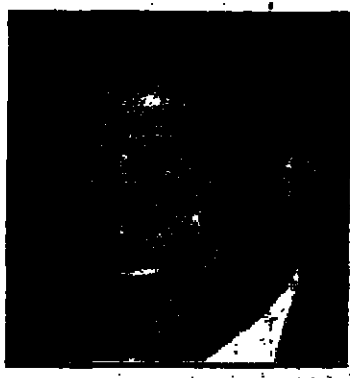
By JAY BUSHINSKY

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny believes the US is "pushing hard" to move the Middle East peace process forward, for fear that continued stalemate will play into the hands of religious extremists in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

Referring to next month's Islamic conference in Teheran, he warned that lack of progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track "will strengthen the antipeace camp" and thereby undermine regional stability.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, the veteran Egyptian envoy contended that American and European interests converge on the need to "shore up the area's stability."

Lucid, articulate and incisive throughout a wide-ranging question-and-answer session, Bassiouny seemed oblivious to the adverse publicity prompted



Mohammed Bassiouny

by allegations that he had sexually assaulted a belly dancer. A criminal investigation was closed last month for lack of evidence.

"I don't want to talk about that," he said. Instead, he analyzed such issues as the continuing confrontation between the US and the

US, the impact and influence of clandestine terrorist cells in Egypt, the redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank and the pivotal role of Syria in his government's quest for a "comprehensive peace" between Israel and all the Arab states.

He saw no basis for a new US-led coalition that would encompass Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states, mirroring the alliance against Iraq formed on the eve of the Gulf War in 1991.

"It's a different situation now," he said. "At that time, Iraq invaded an Arab country [Kuwait]. We oppose any Arab country invading another."

Now, Egypt is against the use of military force, he went on, preferring diplomatic means to persuade Iraq that UN resolutions must be respected.

The full interview with Bassiouny will appear in tomorrow's paper.

سكنا من الاصل

NEWS

in brief

Explosives thrown at IDF troops in Hebron

Several explosive devices were thrown at IDF troops in Hebron last night, but caused no injuries or damage. The first two devices were thrown at troops stationed near Beit Hadassah and a third at the "truck" market in the city.

The Hebron Jewish community demanded that IDF troops beef up security in the H2 area and prohibit all Palestinians from entering the area. They also demanded more lookout points be erected along the boundary between H1 and H2.

IDF troops also discovered a small weapons cache in Kabatiya near Jenin. It contained cartridges and two grenades. Yesterday morning an Egged bus traveling from Jerusalem to Kiryat Arba came under a heavy barrage of stones near El Aroub. No one was injured, the IDF Spokesman said. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Arafat sends message to Saddam Hussein

PA official Azzam Ahmed brought a message from PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday. In a meeting with Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammed Saïd Sakaf, Ahmed discussed the peace process and the obstacles faced by the PA.

Ahmed thanked the Iraqi president for recognizing the Palestinian passport. *Mohammed Najib*

Iraq executed spies recruited by Mossad - report

LONDON - Iraq's counterespionage service has uncovered and executed members of a network of spies who were allegedly recruited by the Mossad in northern Iraq, according to unnamed Israeli sources quoted by the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*. The newsletter, published yesterday, reported that "these agents provided valuable information about the army. Part of the network was uncovered about two months ago and high-tech equipment including radios were seized. The rest of the network was discovered recently; those involved were hanged."

The alleged espionage operation started after Mossad agents spotted a member of a leading Iraqi family in Istanbul. According to *Foreign Report*, there are "at least two other Israeli operations in northern Iraq." *Douglas Davis*

Hunger striker reportedly in critical condition

Palestinian officials said yesterday a Palestinian woman on a hunger strike in an Israeli jail was in critical condition and had rejected a Palestinian Authority demand she end her fast. Yesterday was the 36th day of Itaf Alayan's hunger strike, aimed at securing her release.

PA official Hisham Abdel-Razek said he visited Alayan on Tuesday. "She refused a Palestinian Authority demand to end her strike and allow the authority to take up her case," he said. "She said she is either released from the Israeli jail or she continues her hunger strike until she dies." He described her physical condition as "very critical." *Reuters*

PA releases Subbah

The Palestinian Authority ordered the release of Prof. Fathi Subbah, who was arrested by Gazan Preventive Security officials on July 2. Subbah was arrested after discussing corruption in the PA with his students at the Al-Azhar University in Gaza.

His release was requested by PA Attorney-General Faiz Abu Rahme and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat personally intervened in seeking his release. Claims that Subbah was tortured during his internment were upheld by Palestinian Human Rights activist Bassam Eid. *Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib*

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

MYER TODES

The funeral will take place on Friday,
November 28, 1997, at 2 p.m.
at Kibbutz Yizra'el.

The family and Kibbutz Yizra'el



THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

deeply mourns the passing of

ADA SERENI

Ph.D. Honoris Causa
of the
Weizmann Institute of Science

With deep sorrow, we regret to announce that our beloved

NAOMI BEECHAM

has passed away peacefully.

The funeral will commence at Sharrigar Funeral Parlor,
tomorrow, Friday, November 28, 1997, at 9 a.m., and
proceed to the Mount of Olives Cemetery.

The Family

Shiva at 34 Rehov Ramat Hagolan,
Ramat Eshkol, Jerusalem.

The unveiling of the tombstone of

JOSEPH M. WEISSMAN י"מ

of Far Rockaway, New York

will take place on
Friday, November 28, 1997 at 10 a.m.
at the Sanhedria Cemetery.

The Weissman family

Sheetrit: I'm not scared of PA state

By LIAT COLLINS

Likud whip Meir Sheetrit declared yesterday that he supports the establishment of a Palestinian state while the Likud is in power.

Speaking at a party faction meeting, Sheetrit said: "I think we can reach an agreement with the PLO and the Palestinians. I'm not scared of them and I'm not scared of a Palestinian state."

"The most important thing is to initiate a Palestinian state while we're in power. If we [the Likud] initiate it ourselves we'll do it under the best conditions for Israel, preserving our vital interests," Sheetrit said however he had red

lines. "Give me the choice of Jerusalem or peace and I will choose Jerusalem," he said.

He said if Israel does nothing, at the end of the process a Palestinian state would be created under less favorable conditions.

Sheetrit said he thought it is possible to reach an agreement on the permanent arrangements but he objected to Oslo 2, which would give the Palestinians most of the territories in the interim period.

According to an official briefing, the prime minister presented the Likud MKs with his ideas on furthering the process towards final-status talks. He stressed that the second further redeployment would be conditional on the Palestinians abiding by their com-

mitments and any further handing over of territory would be within the framework of the permanent arrangements.

Netanyahu said Israel insists that the Palestinians abolish the Palestinian Covenant, reduce the number of the Palestinian policemen and stop Palestinian Authority activity in east Jerusalem.

Netanyahu stressed that it is up to the Palestinians to prove that they are carrying out the agreements. "We have so far carried out our obligations, except for the second and third redeployments, but they have not carried out any obligation and therefore we will not go on to the redeployments."

He noted that Israel has with-

drawn from 80 percent of Hebron, released prisoners, and is holding advanced negotiations in all the working committees.

Science Minister Michael Eitan said he supported starting the final-status negotiations on condition the government takes significant steps to strengthen Jewish settlement in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

MKs Ze'ev Begin and Uzi Landau objected to any withdrawal from the territories. "We can't give the Palestinians even a millimeter," said Landau. "Israel is taking on military risks. We can't give up anything at the moment. We must reassess the process."

Likud MK Gideon Ezra later said Sheetrit could not continue to

act as party whip while supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state.

A meeting that did not take place was also cause for discussion in the Knesset corridors yesterday: Netanyahu was forced to cancel a meeting with coalition MKs when too few turned up. One of the topics on the agenda was apparently the fact that the coalition MKs did not turn out in sufficient numbers to block opposition-led bills.

Only some eight MKs and ministers arrived for the scheduled meeting. After waiting some 20 minutes in vain for more, Sheetrit was forced to call it off.

He said he would reschedule the meeting next week.

Settlers lobby against further pullbacks

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and SARAH HONG

Settlement leaders continued their feverish efforts to prevent any further redeployment, pressuring MKs and government ministers to vote against the planned withdrawal from eight percent of Judea and Samaria.

Yehudit Tayar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, charged that if the government votes for a withdrawal the lives of the settlement residents will be endangered.

"The first stage withdrawal of 2% that was raised earlier in the year and rejected by Yasser Arafat threatened a majority of the Samaritan communities and isolated settlements such as Karnei Tsur and Tekoa. The percentage of land currently being discussed will isolate communities in the Hebron area and the surrounding mountains, Gush Etzion, and most of the communities in Samaria, such as Pnei Hever, Carmel and Maon."

Tayar charged that the size of the withdrawal compares with the area of Greater Tel Aviv. "What will happen to communities that are suddenly surrounded by Area A, under total Palestinian control?"

The council, she said had received numerous calls from settlers disturbed by the government's proposal and were concerned how their community would be affected.

"The government of Israel and the IDF are responsible for the security of their citizens. How will they be able to safeguard their rights when they will find themselves living in Area A?"

Another important issue, said Tayar, is water, since 35% of Israel's fresh water comes from the hillsides in Samaria.

The National Religious Party, meanwhile, told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that any further redeployment would be unacceptable "unless Israel first decides on and spells out its demands for the country's final borders."

He also warned that "there is no telling where the situation could deteriorate from there. It could very well embroil us at later stages in a war with Syria and the rest of the Arab world, while Netanyahu has managed to cross our best friend in the world, the US."

A foreign intelligence report says that the IDF is not properly prepared for the possibility of a guerrilla war breaking out in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that any attempt to recapture these territories could be very costly to IDF forces.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer spoke out forcefully against redeployment and vowed "to struggle against this plan. We will seek to put together a solid united front against it. There is simply no chance whatever that we can vote for this notion."



Nazi spoils?

Rabbi Henry Sobel holds a case containing 21 rings with precious stones yesterday. The case was found in a safe deposit box in Sao Paulo, Brazil, together with up to \$4.5 million in cash and gold, which authorities suspect Nazi fugitives may have stolen from Holocaust victims. Sobel is a member of Brazil's recently created Special Commission for the Search of Nazi Money. *Reuters*

Barak warns of 'guerrilla war' in the territories

By SARAH HONG and ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak yesterday warned of the "outbreak of a guerrilla war by the Palestinians if an agreement they deem satisfactory is not reached soon."

"What is offered them now is inadequate and does not meet their demands. This can lead to scenes, compared to which the intifada would pale. This is because the Palestinians now control territory and can mount warfare from their areas. Moreover, they are armed and can use rifles instead of rocks. This is a whole different situation."

He also warned that "there is no telling where the situation could deteriorate from there. It could very well embroil us at later stages in a war with Syria and the rest of the Arab world, while Netanyahu has managed to cross our best friend in the world, the US."

A foreign intelligence report says that the IDF is not properly prepared for the possibility of a guerrilla war breaking out in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that any attempt to recapture these territories could be very costly to IDF forces.

According to *Jane's Intelligence Review*, the IDF could recapture the most key points held by the Palestinians within 24 hours, but this could lead to between 200 and 2,000 Israeli fatalities, depending on the degree of firepower the IDF uses.

It said that the IDF general staff has been very slow to react to a possible scenario of aggressive Palestinian raids and resistance. It specifically noted that the IDF should have created additional active and reserve infantry brigades and territorial defense units to meet this threat. The IDF should also have added more armed helicopter squadrons and re-emphasize territorial defense roles among settlements.

The Palestinian militias number between 35,000 and 50,000, and some reports say that the Palestinian Authority can rely on up to 70,000 armed troops. Israeli security officials have said that the Palestinians are also importing weapons and are actually manufacturing them in the Gaza Strip. These include anti-tank missiles and Katyusha rockets.

Just last month, Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Or, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, warned that the IDF could suffer a large number of casualties if fighting breaks out with the Palestinians. But he said the Palestinians would suffer more.

Or, who commanded the IDF forces in OC Judea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip division, said then that preparations needed to be taken to ensure that flashpoints are reduced.

Much of the defense of the area along the Green Line falls on the Border Police. They have recently set up special units operating all-terrain-vehicles and mountain bicycles to patrol the 360-kilometer-long frontier.

PA warns Hamas to hold off terror attacks

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB and ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

Palestinian Authority security officials warned Hamas leaders to refrain from carrying out terrorist attacks yesterday, expressing concern that terror attacks would impede current redeployment discussions.

Gaza Hamas leader Abdjal Aziz Rantisi denied this. At a meeting that Rantisi had with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and Sheikh Ahmed Yassin three weeks ago, Arafat did not ask Hamas to refrain from carrying out "operations" against Israel, Rantisi said.

Rantisi called the peace negotiations between Israel and the PA meaningless and said there was no connection between the peace process and Hamas' operations.

"If Israel refused Sheikh Ahmad Yassin's initiative to call a cease-fire, it is obvious that Israel intends to continue with the occupation. Our resistance will continue," he said yesterday.

Meanwhile, 41 Islamic Jihad and Hamas activists in Nabulus prison agreed to halt their hunger strike after PA Preventive Security Service head Col. Jibril Rajoub promised they would be released last night or today. Rajoub visited the prisoners on Monday.

Palestinian Human Rights activist Bassam Eid said that Arafat, not Rajoub, had decided to release the prisoners.

DEPARTURES

Raya Jaglom, a Vice President World Jewish Congress to London to attend W.J.C. Executive Meeting

The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya

The public is invited
to a lecture by
Dr. Heribert Weiland

"National Reconciliation in Southern Africa"

Sunday, November 30, 1997, at 12 noon,
at the Ofer Hall, The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya

"Tears in the Green - The Rwandan Tragedy -
Three Years Later"

A Photo Exhibition by Erez T. Yanuv
Ofer Hall foyer, November 30 until December 24

Rehov Kanfei Nesharim, corner of Natan Alterman, Herzliya

Entrance free

HENRIETTA SZOLD

Special appreciation for sending me Nachum Y. Glid's
grand work, Henrietta Szold. It is a book to savor and
treasure."

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סוכן מן הארץ



Sweet protest

Diabetics dump sugar outside the main offices of Kupat Holim Clalit in Tel Aviv yesterday to protest its refusal to provide medications that improve the health of diabetics. The Tel Aviv Labor Court will begin hearing a class action suit today of the Israel Diabetics' Association and three of its members against the health minister and the health fund.

Shi'ites protest Beit Leif shelling

By DAVID HUDGE

Several hundred angry Shi'ite residents of the security zone protested outside UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura yesterday over the Beit Leif village massacre. The protesters carried placards and chanted slogans denouncing the Lebanese government for giving its auspices to those responsible for the shelling, in which eight people were killed and several others wounded.

The Amal Shi'ite organization was believed to be responsible for the rocket and mortar attack on Beit Leif village on Sunday. It appeared to have acted in coordination with Hizbullah gunmen.

Yesterday's demonstration coincided with a meeting at UNIFIL's headquarters of the five-nation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee.

The protesters, some of them waving photographs of those killed in the shelling and chanting "Allah Akbar," demanded a meeting with representatives of the monitoring committee. They met with UNIFIL's senior

political advisor Timur Goksel and presented him with a petition which he promised to pass to the committee.

Israel has complained to the committee over the shelling of Beit Leif, as well as Katyusha rocket fire into western Galilee and two incidents of shooting from inside villages north of the zone - all in breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings. The incidents all occurred on Sunday.

An examination of fragments of the shells that hit the village revealed that they had been manufactured by Iran's military industry, according to writing on them.

The pro-Syrian Beirut daily *As-Safir* yesterday called for a thorough examination of the Beit Leif incident in light of the civilian casualties.

"It is easy to put the blame on the enemy because it is, first and foremost, the cause of the military problems in south Lebanon... But what happened in Beit Leif needs the most serious and courageous attention by all concerned," the newspaper wrote in an editorial.

"The proper approach is to carry out an exhaustive investigation... which must be official and made public to prevent recurrences," said the newspaper which was one of the few to comment on the Beit Leif incident.

Meanwhile, the IDF's commander of the western region of the security zone and along the northern border, Col. Nimrod, said that, after a period of relative quiet, Amal was returning to the battleground in south Lebanon.

"Hizbullah is the dominant organization in the region. Amal, however, after a break for a certain period is trying to return to intensive [hostile] activities," said Nimrod.

"[Amal] is being supported by Hizbullah, with the aid of guides and other things. This is part of attempts to join forces and hit us every possible way."

"We are succeeding quite well in preventing this - and we do not differentiate between Amal and Hizbullah," he said.

"At least seven gunmen have been killed and as many as 10 others wounded by IDF troops in fighting in south Lebanon in the past few days."

Bronfman: Clinton is wrong about not meeting Netanyahu

By JAY BUSHINSKY and LIAT COLLINS

US President Bill Clinton's inability to find time to see Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House was assailed yesterday by World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman.

"I think Clinton is wrong to have rejected the prime minister to the extent that he did," Bronfman said.

He said the warm welcome given by Clinton to Netanyahu's predecessor, Shimon Peres, "could be interpreted as interference in Israeli politics."

He criticized the Clinton administration's attitude toward Netanyahu, saying it should show more understanding of the prime minister's domestic political problems.

Reflecting on the discussion he had with Netanyahu during his

current stay here, Bronfman came to the conclusion that "his problem is his coalition."

Netanyahu told Bronfman and senior officials that he was "pushing the peace envelope as far as he can." Bronfman went on, referring to the current formula for redeployment in the West Bank.

Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Shalom told the Knesset plenum yesterday that the opposition's emissaries in the US acted to prevent a meeting between Netanyahu and Clinton.

"Israel has no intention of handing over strategic assets for a meeting," Shalom said. "A meeting with the US president is important, but the prime minister ordered a halt in the dealings concerning a meeting if it is conditional on agreeing to concessions."

The government will not change its policy, and the opposition must stop fanning the flames against the prime minister in the US, he said.

Netanyahu told Bronfman and senior officials that he was "pushing the peace envelope as far as he can." Bronfman went on, referring to the current formula for redeployment in the West Bank.

Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Shalom told the Knesset plenum yesterday that the opposition's emissaries in the US acted to prevent a meeting between Netanyahu and Clinton.

"Israel has no intention of handing over strategic assets for a meeting," Shalom said. "A meeting with the US president is important, but the prime minister ordered a halt in the dealings concerning a meeting if it is conditional on agreeing to concessions."

The government will not change its policy, and the opposition must stop fanning the flames against the prime minister in the US, he said.

Coalition fails in bid to reject welfare bill

By LIAT COLLINS

The coalition suffered another stinging defeat in the Knesset plenum yesterday when Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai's efforts to reject an opposition-led bill failed. The bill passed its preliminary reading 34 to 32 even though Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu broke off the cabinet discussions on the further redeployment and mobilized his government ministers for the plenum vote on the bill which would increase national insurance aid to working parents.

Netanyahu reportedly later asked United Torah Judaism leader Meir Porush where his MKs were at the time of the vote, only to be reminded by Porush that Likud MKs left the room last week before a vote on the archeology bill which the religious parties tried to pass. Last week a string of opposition bills passed in the plenum.

Likud whip Meir Sheerit lost his temper with UTJ MKs Moshe Gafni and Shmuel Halperit yesterday after two bills by Gafni passed preliminary reading. The bills, opposed by the government because of the cost, would improve aid to apartment buyers.

As the vote passed, Sheerit shouted at Gafni threatening that he would next week bring up the bill calling for the draft of yeshiva students. The scene caused Deputy Speaker Shevah Weiss to remind him that "Coalition

threats and promises have no place in the plenum. Do what you want outside of the plenum where it's not my business."

Gafni told Sheerit that his objections to the bill "are just an attempt to cover up the fact that the coalition is not functioning."

The dispute between the two worsened this week when Gafni accused Sheerit of breaking a promise to him that a UTJ MK would be elected to the body which selects members of the chief rabbinate.

Yesterday's bill was raised by MK Yael Dayan (Labor), based on work by Na'amat, and calls for larger national insurance payments to help families with children younger than six when both parents work.

Yishai voiced his objections based on Finance Ministry assessments that it would cost the state NIS 1.1 billion a year to implement. Yishai said the budget does not exist and would have to be taken from elsewhere. Parents would receive NIS 302 for the first child instead of NIS 154 and would get extra benefit points for each additional child under six years old.

Yishai also objected to the fact that it would apply to all parents without distinguishing between different income groups. The bill was raised at the same time the Knesset Finance Committee is discussing cuts to the child allowance for first and second children, he said.

Opposition calls for probe into jubilee funds

By LIAT COLLINS

Ran Cohen (Meretz) has asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to open a police investigation of the prime minister over the organization of the 50th anniversary celebrations in the Diaspora.

MK Yossi Katz (Labor), chairman of the Knesset State Control Committee, has demanded details of the agreement between the Prime Minister's Office and millionaire Merv Adelson regarding the same issue.

Cohen said Netanyahu had ordered the heads of the 50th anniversary celebrations organizing committee to pay Adelson's expenses to the tune of some \$300,000 and that Adelson had been granted a budget of \$3 million.

Cohen said Adelson donated money to Netanyahu during the Likud primary elections. He said the situation raises questions about a possible criminal breach of trust.

"The events that were meant to emphasize national unity and our history are being organized in a Cheim-like manner," Katz said. He said the prime minister had made the appointment without informing Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who heads the Ministerial Ceremonies and Symbols Committee.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office responded that the celebrations are under the strict supervision of a monitoring body and that every expense and

payment has to be approved by this body.

He said Adelson and another man mentioned by Katz are well-known Jewish activists who volunteered to contribute their time, talents and connections for the celebrations.

The appointment was made with the approval of the ceremonies and symbols committee and of the government.

The two men did not donate to either the Likud or the prime minister's last election campaigns and they are not being paid for their work now, the spokesman said.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

PM tries for pullback

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts to obtain support for the implementation of his second redeployment plan in order to advance the peace process are "too little too late," writes *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev.

He claims that under other circumstances, the disagreements between the Israelis, the Americans and the Palestinians could have been bridged, but "with the lack of trust [between the parties], Netanyahu's proposals are doomed to rejection."

Yediot Aharonot's Ronni Shaked refers to Netanyahu's opposition in his own camp. He claims that the right wing's fear of a second redeployment, prompted by their belief that this move would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, is unfounded because "a Palestinian state is an existing fact."

Shaked indicates that the Palestinians have acquired all of the characteristics of an independent state and the only reason that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat does not announce his independence lies in his fear that "it would provide Israel with a legitimate excuse to cancel agreements."

"It is important to maintain good relations with the US, but it is even more important to keep the promises to the voters," states *Ma'ariv's* Haggai Segal, who adds that "instead of giving President Clinton false promises, one should say 'no; it might miraculously

boost Netanyahu's credibility and revive his government."

Ha'aretz's Ze'ev Schiff focuses on the psychological pressure being applied to Netanyahu and the open question: Will Netanyahu be able to get his plan approved by his difficult coalition members?"

Lieberman saga

Avigdor Lieberman's aggressive press conference, followed by the news he might be charged with fraud, generated extensive commentary.

"Lieberman has proven that he is still Netanyahu's loyal messenger, and not only is he far from abandoning political activity, he is ready to wage a war," claims *Yediot's* Bina Barzel, following Lieberman's personal attacks on Likud members.

She adds, however, that if the case against him will develop, "it might suffocate the crossfire initiated by the resigning director general."

"Until yesterday, it was Lieberman who was said to strengthen Netanyahu, today, it is obvious that the greatest supporter of the lame duck is a wounded bear," write Ron Meisberg and Amnon Dankner for *Ma'ariv*.

Ha'aretz's Yossi Vertter asserts that Lieberman's speech reflects "upon Netanyahu's purification plan for the Likud," adding that by marking the rebellious ministers as targets, Lieberman has actually marked Netanyahu by provoking the ministers' wrath.

Unemployment

The rise in the unemployment rate "will engulf more and more citizens and will eventually shake the existing foundations of our democracy," claims Meir Bleich in *Ma'ariv*.

"Whoever knows how to read the budget agenda, has deciphered the national agenda for the coming year, and it is an anti-citizen agenda of a society under siege," writes Ya'acov Yona, also in *Ma'ariv*. He adds that the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry will suffer severe cuts, "just at a time when plants close down and there is accelerating government need for professional support and employment alternatives."

Problems with Bill

The decision by the Prime Minister's Office to stop trying to arrange a meeting between Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton "is a small announcement of independence; let us hope that he continues in this direction," states Emanuel Elon in *Yediot*. She adds that "if the US is to stop dictating Israel's political agenda, Israel must get used to deciding her own agenda."

"It was not Netanyahu who stopped the negotiations, but Clinton once he shook hands with Shimon Peres and Leah Rabin [last week]," writes *Ha'aretz's* Akiva Eldor.

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הכרזה מן הארבע

Reserve duty bill goes to 1st reading

By LIAT COLLINS and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen yesterday celebrated the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee's decision to approve for first reading the bill he has been working on for over four years to cut and regulate the amount of time reserve soldiers can be called up for duty.

"It's a general amnesty for reservists, and who more than they deserve it," he said.

But Cohen's bill itself is far from a sweeping reform. It proposes that the total number of days a reservist can be called for active service a year would be 36, compared to 39 today and 48 in 1995. It also limits the number of days a reservist can be called to serve at one time to 25, compared to 24 today and an unlimited number in 1995. It also proposes to abolish the "Zav 8" unlimited emergency call up which exists today and would require Knesset approval — or at least the endorsement of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee — for such mobilizations.

The bill does not, however, tackle the question of the unfair distribution of the burden of reserve duty, which still falls mainly on combat unit veterans, MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said. And it does not

cover reservists at many of the higher levels such as battalion and division commanders.

According to the bill, combat reserve duty would be limited to 25 days a year plus five "training" (*imunit*) days and six one-day call-ups.

The IDF has been working this year on the assumption that the bill will become law and basically has adjusted its reservist call-up policy accordingly, Zucker said. Nonetheless the bill is noteworthy for establishing the criteria in law, as opposed to IDF regulations, he said.

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee also considered the issue of special financial compensation to reservists in combat units. The IDF already has budgeted NIS 30 million for this, but the MKs did not determine how this money should be spent and what individual soldiers would receive.

Another proposed change in the bill would be that combat soldiers would be released from combat unit reserve duty at age 41 and non-combatant soldiers released from reserve duty at age 48. This change would only go into effect in the year 2001. The rest of the bill is expected to pass into law and come into effect by January 1999.

Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkenazy, assistant to the General Staff for

Operations, said the IDF had been involved in drafting the bill and was satisfied with it. But he said many of the elements in the bill already had been implemented over the past few years.

"It expresses a new component in which the state, the lawmakers, the defense establishment and the army are saying publicly that those who serve must be compensated," Ashkenazy said. "True it doesn't create more servicemen, but it certainly gives preference to those who are doing service."

He added that the large number of conscripts this decade enabled the IDF to establish more units and the army relied less on reservists than before.

"Assuming that the security reality is not going to change, we are going to call on less and less reservists than in the past," Ashkenazy said.

Ashkenazy also hinted that the army's hands were tied when it came to dealing with deferments given for religious or medical grounds and that the new bill did not provide for bringing them into the pool of reservists.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai praised the bill and said it was fully supported by the defense establishment and expressed the appreciation for reservists in general and those serving in field units in particular.



A gift from Weizman

Reuma Weizman, the president's wife, hands a present to one of the three children who received organs from Hasan Ali Jarawish, the boy who was inadvertently killed by an IDF rubber bullet in Bethlehem two weeks ago. Weizman visited the three children yesterday at the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva. On Tuesday, Hasan's father, Mohammed Jarawish, was received by President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hanassi. (Text: Judy Siegel; photo: Yael Sorek/Israel Sun)

US formally requests extradition of teen suspect

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Israel has received a formal US request to extradite the teenager wanted in connection with a grisly murder that took place in September in Maryland.

The 17-year-old boy, whose name cannot be published here because he is a minor, fled here shortly after the burned and dismembered body of 19-year-old Alfredo Tello was found in a vacant house in Montgomery County, Maryland. Another suspect was arrested in the case; both have been charged with murder.

But the youth being held here claims Israeli citizenship, which would entitle him to be tried here and not extradited. The claim is based on the fact that his father, who was born here and left Israel in 1950, at the age of six, holds Israeli citizenship. The youth had never visited Israel previously and does not hold an Israeli passport.

Israeli citizens are protected by

Israeli law against extradition for crimes committed abroad. The formal US request opens up the way for a complicated and lengthy legal procedure that could, however, end in extradition, based on questions as to whether the father's citizenship claim is valid.

According to the 1952 Citizenship Law, only people who were still resident in Israel at the time of the passage of the law — July 1952 — automatically became Israeli citizens. Since the father left in 1950, his residence here could be interpreted as insufficient to consider him an Israeli citizen. Then, by extension, his son has no claim to citizenship and may be extradited.

Documents relating to the case will be examined by the Justice Ministry's international department and then will be brought to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi for perusal, the ministry spokeswoman said yesterday. Hanegbi will decide whether to submit a petition for extradition to the Jerusalem District

Court, which will decide whether the youth can be extradited or not.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein has already declared that, in his opinion, the youth can be extradited. Hanegbi is expected to follow suit.

Lawyers for the suspect, led by former justice minister David Liba'i, say they will oppose the move and if necessary, take the case to the Supreme Court — a move which could lengthen the proceedings considerably.

The file sent from the US contains a description of the crime, evidence from eyewitnesses and others, along with documents relating to the citizenship issue. Earlier, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service had forwarded some 300 documents to the ministry.

The case has received wide, unfavorable coverage in the US and a Congressional committee held up aid to Israel while the preliminary deliberations were held here over the question of extradition.

PA and Israel douse fires

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

As Israeli and Palestinian statesmen wrangle over the peace process, attempts are being made behind the scenes to encourage cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli fire department officials.

Fire Department Chief Avner Mustafa, who heads the Ariel branch, instigated meetings with his Palestinian counterparts from Kalkilya and Nablus. "Most of the time when we are called to assist in rescuing victims of road accidents in the area, the Palestinian fire and rescue squads show up and assist us," he said.

Seeking to improve relations with the Palestinians, Mustafa suggested carrying out a number of joint drills using the latest equipment and technology.

The first drill took place with a Palestinian crew from Kalkilya. Last week a crew of 20 fire officials from Nablus spent the day learning about the different methods and technology used by their Israeli counterparts, Mustafa said.

Gov't to fund genetic testing to verify Yemenite remains

Funds have been found to conduct genetic testing of skeletons of what are presumed to be Yemenite children. The results then can be compared to tests done on members of families whose children went missing decades ago.

The government submitted a statement to this effect to the High Court of Justice yesterday in response to a petition filed by the chairman of the Public Committee for Discovering the Missing Yemenite Children, Rosh Ha'ayin Mayor Yigal Yosef, and 10 Yemenite families.

The petition demanded that Health Minister Yehoshua Matza fulfill a promise made by his pre-

decessor, Tzahi Hanegbi, to conduct these tests. The state attorney's representative told the High Court that the Treasury would provide the Health Ministry with NIS 400,000 to finish the testing.

In the summer of last year, Yosef approached Hanegbi and asked that genetic tests be done on families and that the results be matched with tissue samplings from the remains of what were presumed to be Yemenite children, who were buried in the Segula Cemetery.

Hanegbi authorized blood tests on the parents and first-degree relatives of interested families and the blood was stored at the Institute for Forensic Medicine at

Abu Kabir. The 10 graves that were subsequently opened yielded 22 skeletons.

In March, however, the families were told that due to lack of funds, the forensic institute would not be able to finish testing the remains. The families petitioned the High Court, claiming that stopping the tests constituted a breach of promise and demonstrated an extreme lack of sensitivity by a government body in this painful affair.

After receiving the government's commitment to the funding, Justices Yitzhak Zamir, Tova Strassberg-Cohen and Ya'acov Terkel postponed further hearings on the case for a month. (Tim)

TA workers begin sanctions

Municipal workers in Tel Aviv began sanctions yesterday after the city hired outside sanitation contractors in addition to the sanitation department's staff. The contractors have started working in the northern neighborhoods.

Mayor Ronni Milo said the contractors' work had not affected and would not affect the work conditions or salaries of the city's sanitation staff. At the same time, the city ran ads in the press telling residents to prepare for a strike, and, if it happens, to put all their trash in designated places.

There were sanctions in the city's financial branch, including property rates departments. Office hours were cancelled and phone calls went unanswered. There were also sanctions in the engineering and construction branch.

Amnon Bar-David, chairman of the municipality's works committee, said the workers were even considering an all-out strike.

Gershon Gelman, the Histadrut chairman for the Tel Aviv-Jaffa region, said the Histadrut was very concerned over the hiring of private contractors in place of city workers.

The sanitation branch cannot do its work properly because it is understaffed and uses outmoded equipment, Gelman said.

Negotiations between the city and the sanitation workers broke down Tuesday, and the Histadrut announced it would support the workers.

The city said it hired outside contractors because agreements signed in the '70s mean employees work only three days a week. (Tim)

Neeman to address Reform conference Shalom: PM wasn't aware of Lieberman's press conference

By HERB KEINON

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, head of the committee trying to put together a compromise on the Conservative and Reform conversion issue, is scheduled to address the biennial convention of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism tonight at Beit Shmuel in Jerusalem.

In addition to Neeman, representatives from Likud, Labor, Meretz and Yisrael Ba'aliya will address the gathering. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman have sent greetings that will be read at the opening event.

Dov Ben-Shimon, the convention's coordinator, said he called Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau to extend an invitation, but that an aide to Lau turned him down.

Ben-Shimon said that a convention of the Reform movement's activists in Israel was planned far in advance of the recent storm over the conversion issue, but that the issue will undoubtedly be a central topic of discussion.

In addition to the conversion issue, workshops at the three-day convention, entitled "Progressive Judaism between the poles: between haredism and secularism," are slated to look at the meaning and relevance of a number of holidays and life-cycle events such as Shabbat, Hanukka and the bar mitzva.

Some 200 to 300 people are expected to attend the conference.

Answering several motions to the agenda on the resignation of Avigdor Lieberman as director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Deputy Defense Minister

Silvan Shalom said that Lieberman had not told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu what he planned to say at the press conference he held on Monday.

Shalom, who is the government's liaison to the Knesset, said Netanyahu did not approve of personal attacks.

Shalom said Lieberman had served the prime minister between 1993 and 1996 and had helped him win the Likud's top spot and the premiership.

Shalom said Lieberman had stressed that he had not known that the police planned to recommend he be indicted for alleged financial misdealings as head of the Geshet Aliya association and also said the prime minister had not known, either.

"It's much more than just a mishap when the internal security minister and police inspector-general learn of the recommendations [to prosecute] only after journalists publish it," said Shalom.

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

building at the time turned up for the vote.

A-Sanaa: Labor rejecting Arabs

MK Taleb A-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) yesterday wrote a letter of complaint to Labor Party leader Ehud Barak protesting Barak's statement this week that he would be prepared to head a national unity government including the Likud, Shas and Yisrael Ba'aliya.

"We're fed up with this approach," said A-Sanaa. "Labor candidates compete with the Likud for being cut off and distant from any links with the Arab parties."

Organizing coalition peace supporters

MK Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) is acting to create a forum of peace process supporters within the coalition to act as a counterweight to the Land of Israel Front headed by MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet).

He said he is in contact with MKs from his own party and the Likud, Third Way, Geshet and Shas.

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Teachers postpone sanctions

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The Secondary School Teachers Association yesterday announced it was calling off its sanctions for a two-week period, after negotiations were launched shortly after a marathon, six-hour Knesset Education Committee.

The association said that during the two-week period it would conduct substantive talks with the Education and Finance ministries on proper implementation of its contract, signed in 1994, regarding pay for accompanying pupils on school trips and other events outside the school, and on the matter of principals' salaries and authority.

A spokeswoman for the association said the decision to temporarily lift the sanctions was due to the mediation of the Knesset Education Committee, led by

committee chairman Emanuel Zissman.

Representatives of the Finance Ministry were summoned to the meeting, and the association began negotiations at the Knesset yesterday afternoon, following an earlier meeting of the committee on the sanctions issue in the morning.

That session was a stormy one, with representatives of several groups most affected by the halting of school trips - including the Habima and Cameri theaters, the Society for the Preservation of Nature in Israel - and MKs sharply criticizing the teachers for the sanctions.

Reacting to the attacks, association chairman Ran Erez said: "How were the teachers' sanctions expressed? By their refusing to volunteer. Suddenly it turned out that many rely on our working for



Zissman: A major achievement

nothing to make a living. Everyone tells us we're justified, and where does this get us?"

According to an association spokeswoman, the agreement reached at the session stipulates

that negotiations will focus on compensating teachers who accompany pupils to activities outside school by having that time counted as work hours or in some other agreed-upon fashion. Negotiations regarding principals' salaries and authority will also continue with the Education Ministry, with the conclusions reached in those talks brought to the Knesset Education Committee in two weeks.

If the Finance Ministry refuses to accept an agreed-upon solution worked out between the Education Ministry and the teachers, the Education Committee will support the teachers and use its influence to get the Finance Ministry to accept the agreement.

Speaking after the meeting, Zissman said: "I see this as a major achievement. I used a great deal of pressure, both from the

committee and myself, and I'm very happy the sanctions were stopped."

He said the committee's willingness to put its influence behind any agreed-upon formula worked out between the Education Ministry and the association was "an incentive" to get the two sides to reach agreement.

"In such a case, we'll put all the tools at our disposal to see it through and see to it that the Finance Ministry agrees to this," he said. "There had been an agreement on this before, but then the president couldn't do it, I did, but I'm not a candidate for president. We'll do all we can now so that the sanctions aren't renewed in two weeks, but rather that this agreement will turn into a permanent one."



Akhensiz Chief Rabbi Yisroel Lau shakes hands yesterday with Stephen Flatow, whose daughter Alisa was killed in a terror attack at Kfar Darom in April 1995. Flatow, who lives in New Jersey, told Lau that he intends to immigrate to Israel. (Brian Hendler)

Histadrut to strike Sunday

Some 150,000 clerks will go on strike Saturday at midnight, the Histadrut decided last night after talks between the Clerks Union and the Treasury faltered. The strike will include workers from the local authorities, Kupat Holim Clalit, public institutions and Na'amat and WIZO day-care centers, among others.

"I am surprised and also terrified by the lack of responsibility displayed by the representative of the Finance Ministry, which has done everything possible to lead us to implement serious economic sanctions," Clerks Union head Leon Murozovsky said last night. "Therefore we are forced to call a strike which will be one of the most painful ones that Israel ever had."

Earlier yesterday, the Histadrut had agreed to hold off a strike after the National Labor Court yesterday postponed a hearing on a restraining order barring workers from striking, a court spokesman said. He had said the court scheduled another hearing for next Wednesday, and that in the meantime the Histadrut had agreed to delay staging any strikes.

(News agencies)

NEWS

in brief

One dead in Lower Galilee collision

The driver of a pickup truck was killed yesterday in a collision with another truck near the Beit Rimon Junction in Lower Galilee. The pickup was heading toward the junction when it veered suddenly and collided head-on with the semitrailer. It took firefighters a long time to extract the driver's body from the wreckage. His identity had not yet been released at press time. *Itim*

Police confiscate weapons, drugs in Ramle

Police confiscated weapons and drugs and detained nine people yesterday during a raid in Ramle. Some 300 police participated in the raid in the Jaarish neighborhood, where a feud between the Jarussi and Karaji clans has claimed 23 lives in the past five years. *Itim*

Surgery removes hair from women's abdomen

A large ball of hair 25 centimeters long that completely blocked the stomach of a 20-year-old woman was removed in emergency surgery at Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava. The young woman began to suffer a few weeks ago from loss of weight and lack of appetite. The doctors, who could feel a large mass in her abdomen, at first thought it was a tumor, but a computerized tomography scan showed it was a ball of hair, which is known in medical terminology as trichobezoar. After questioning her, she admitted to having swallowed strands of her own hair for years due to stress. After the operation, performed by Prof. Moshe Engelberg of the general surgery department, her pains stopped, her appetite returned and her functioning became normal. *Judy Siegel*

MKS get checked for oral cancer

Even though excessive talking doesn't cause oral cancer, Israel Dental Association representatives visited the Knesset this week to check the mouths of MKs and House staffers.

According to the IDA, oral cancer is among the least known to the public, but about 300 new cases are diagnosed each year. Because the symptoms are often noted late, the tumors may metastasize to the lymph glands and other parts of the body at a late stage, when it cannot be treated.

The dentists noted that if people visited their dentist regularly for a checkup, oral cancer could be diagnosed in time for effective treatment in most cases. But only a quarter of the public visit their dentist regularly. The IDA came to the Knesset to increase public awareness of the disease. *Judy Siegel*

IDF arrests drug suspect in Lebanon

Assaf Assaf, of Ramish, a village in southern Lebanon, was arrested and brought to Israel Tuesday on suspicion of drug trafficking here. The arrest followed an unprecedented wave of drug smuggling from Lebanon and the capture of 12 kilograms of drugs over the past month. Assaf's remand was extended yesterday for 15 days. In requesting the remand, the police said Assaf had smuggled large amounts of drugs and had distributed them throughout the country. Assaf was arrested a year and a half ago for a similar alleged offense and was released by the district court after a long remand. *Itim*

Two people treated for CO poisoning in Haifa

Two of six members of a Jerusalem family overcome with carbon monoxide poisoning from a gas heater were rushed yesterday to the hyperbaric chamber attached to Haifa's Rambam Hospital to force the gas out of their bloodstream.

They were the first victims of CO poisoning in the capital this winter, over 100 people are poisoned by carbon monoxide each year. There even have been some deaths.

The family, consisting of parents, grandparents and children aged 12 and 16, was taken by Magen David Adom ambulance to Hadassah-University Hospital in Mt. Scopus after succumbing to the odorless, tasteless and colorless gas emitted by their gas heater. The grandfather and mother, who suffered complications, were taken for treatment to the Haifa facility, which in the summer treats divers suffering from "the bends."

Avraham Halbersberg, head of MDA's Jerusalem branch, noted that every year families who have not properly used or maintained their gas heaters are overcome with CO poisoning. Jerusalem is especially susceptible because of the use of these heaters, especially the "Junkers" type that heat an entire apartment and is often illegally installed or operated in a closed-in bathroom or balcony where there is too little air.

Halbersberg urged owners of gas-heating systems to have them checked each year before the onset of winter and to leave open windows to reduce the risk. He said members of the haredi community in Jerusalem are frequent victims as many use gas heaters but don't know how to operate or maintain them or they close in balconies for more living space. He recommended information campaigns in synagogues and schools.

Radio sexologist loses show

The sound of the bride and groom may be heard in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, but not sexologist Dr. Yaakov Meir-Weil's advice program "Al Pi Shnayim Yakum."

The call-in show, broadcast on local station Radio Yerushalayim, has been pulled from the air after haredi groups allegedly threatened to take away the kashrut certificate of station owner Micha Levy's capital banquet hall if the program was not dropped.

The program, in which the Hadassah Medical Center sexology unit head offered advice to callers in a program similar to what Dr. Ruth Westheimer does in the US, was yanked off the air a week ago Monday, with Meir-Weil given only six hours' notice.

"They called me and said they were taking it off the air," Meir-Weil said. No real explanation for the decision was given to him, he said. However, "this very short notice I received does not show radio planning, but yielding to pressures, but I have no idea where they came from."

However, a source close to the program said: "As far as I know there was some kind of pressure put on Levy from religious circles or rabbis. They told him they would take away the kashrut cer-

tificate from his banquet hall."

Levy owns the Nof Catering Hall in Jerusalem's Shalom Hotel, located in Bayit Vagan, a mostly religious neighborhood.

Levy denied there were any threats made regarding the program. "There were a few calls from people who said the program was too vulgar. So we haven't yet taken it off the air completely. We've decided to delay it for a while. We are evaluating the program, weighing what to do, and all the steps we've taken are temporary. We will check the matter. It's possible it will return; it may not."

A request for a response from Deputy Mayor Haim Miller's office was answered by a woman who said the decision to take the program off was "excellent," and who asked the caller not to even talk to her about the matter. Miller himself could not be reached for comment.

Meir-Weil said he has been doing the show for about five months, "and until now there were no complaints. Nobody spoke to me, or asked me to change anything. Nobody tried to censor it or asked me to change language or content. Feedback was good, many people were calling in, so I had no reason to try to change it."

Many callers to the program have identified themselves as

being religious, Meir-Weil said, but added the program wasn't directed at such people.

Dr. Uri Wernik, director of Misgav Ladach Hospital's sex therapy clinic, said he was surprised by the move. Although he said he was not familiar with the show specifically, "Judaism overall has a very positive approach toward sex; it's regarded as a mitzva. It's not just for the sake of having children, but also for the couple to be together. The idea of sexuality is supposed to have a certain degree of modesty attached to it, but proper discussions of it should not bother people, even in religious circles."

Sharon, a Jerusalemite who said she had regularly listened to the program, said she had found it "very interesting and fun to listen to. It was nice to know that if you had a question, you had someone to turn to where you didn't have to feel embarrassed. After all, everyone has questions, and it's not the kind of thing you talk about at the Shabbat dinner table. It was nice to have a forum for such things. The haredim obviously are busy having sex, judging by the number of children they have, and it would seem to me that they could benefit from such a program, since they're much less likely to talk among themselves about such things."

Striking rail workers threaten to blow up Dimona

Striking Israel Railways employees in Dimona yesterday barricaded themselves among wagons of chemicals from the Dead Sea Works, as part of a dispute between IR and Israel Chemicals.

On Tuesday the strikers threatened to blow up the whole town if they are dismissed from their jobs. They broke into a city council meeting and locked Mayor Gabi Lalouche in the railway station. Lalouche was released by police and the fire brigade. According to the demonstrators, the dangerous chemicals, which have been in the station for 48 hours, could set off a huge explosion.

IR wants to fire 40 workers following a sharp drop in the amount of freight carried in the last four months, due to the ending of an agreement with Israel Chemicals after IR refused IC's request to lower freight charges by 40 percent. IC is therefore sending most of its freight by

Ex-buyer for Defense Ministry sentenced for fraud

Haim Oron, a former Defense Ministry buyer based in New York, was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment yesterday for fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes. The Tel Aviv District Court also gave Oron a 21-month suspended sentence and fined him NIS 150,000.

As the sentence was read, a fight broke out in the courtroom between a Ma'ariv photographer and Oron's relatives, who tried to stop him from taking pictures. The fight continued when they left the courtroom, ending only when security officials intervened.

Oron, 45, of Ramat Gan, submitted bills to the ministry that were significantly higher than the

cost of products it was buying from US weapons companies. He then split the difference with the companies' salesmen.

Oron pocketed \$30,000. His actions cost the ministry NIS 500,000, according to the prosecution.

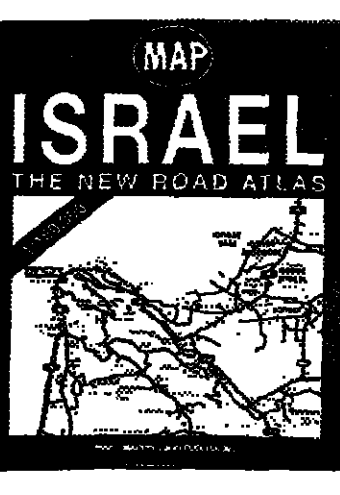
Judge Adina Kaplan-Hegler said she took into account Oron's clean record and his colleagues' positive testimony as to his character, as well as the fact that he had not confessed or expressed regret.

Oron's crime was one of the most serious breaches of trust by a state employee, the judge said. She acceded to a request by Oron's lawyer that he start serving his sentence in mid-January. *(Itim)*

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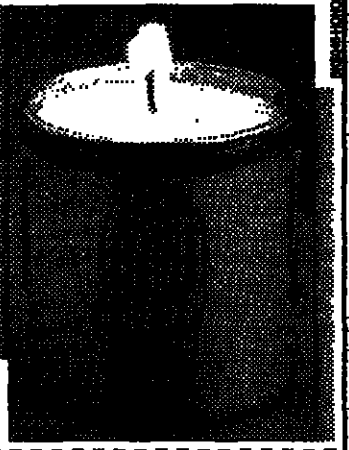
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Peers may be passé

Days may be numbered for some in Britain's House of Lords

By BILL GLAUBER

LONDON — John Roundell Palmer Selborne was born to rule.

He is a member of Britain's House of Lords, a hereditary peer bearing a title handed down generations to the eldest male heir.

Lord Selborne can vote on important government legislation. He can add his voice to the genteel debate that takes place within the plush upper chamber of Britain's Houses of Parliament.

But Selborne's days as an unelected political player may be numbered. Britain's new Labor government is out to strip the hereditary peers of the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

"I have a son," Selborne says. "But I don't think he is expecting to succeed me. By then, this will all be over." Labor's new tune has the Lords a-leaping.

They're not yet backing up the moving vans to the House of Lords, but many of the hereditary peers seem resigned to leaving behind a comfortable life within an exclusive club.

Lord Richard, the leader of the Lords, last week reaffirmed "the government is committed to reforming the Lords, and will bring forward proposals in due course." But he provided no details on any of the reforms.

Prime Minister Tony Blair offered a blunter message in his Labor Party conference speech in September, when he warned the Lords, "We have the votes of the people, you've got the votes of nobody." The battle between the popularly elected House of Commons and the House of Lords has been an on-and-off struggle going back centuries.

The House of Lords symbolizes old Britain, right down to the red-and-white robes members wear when Queen Elizabeth II presides over the State Opening of Parliament. The doorkeepers are dressed in tails; the paneled, carpeted corridors

are filled with portraits of Britain's great and good. Even the coat hooks in the majestic cloakroom speak of power, with spots reserved for princes Phillip, Charles and Andrew.

The House of Lords is descended from the king's council that advised the Norman and Plantagenet monarchs beginning more than 900 years ago.

Today, the House of Lords is a place of privilege and introspection, filled with the wealthy and the well-connected. Its members draw no salaries, but do get expenses. It also has the look of a retirement club, with the average age of sitting peers at 65 years, one month.

Its potential membership — now 1,275 — consists of "lords spiritual," archbishops and bishops of the Church of England; and "lords temporal," who are hereditary and life peers. Some peers decline to take their seats.

The 490 life peers were appointed by successive governments under a system established in 1958 — the same year that women were allowed to sit in the House of Lords. Among the life peers are judges, expoliticians such as former prime minister Margaret Thatcher, prominent business leaders, scientists and musicians. They are selected each year by the government of the moment for appointment by the monarch.

The 759 hereditary peers are lords by blood, many rooted in the country's landed aristocracy. Sixteen lords are heirs to peerages created before 1400.

The House of Lords is Britain's highest court of appeal in civil cases, and highest court of appeal for criminal cases in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The judicial work is overseen by 12 Law Lords. Scotland has its own criminal legal system.

In essence, though, the House of Lords is a talking shop, a "revising chamber" that mostly fine-tunes legislation. It can reject bills drawn up by the House of Commons, but the

Commons can just as easily override and pass them again. At most, the Lords can delay legislation by one year.

So, why does Labor want to take on this defanged institution?

More than half the hereditary peers are aligned with the Conservative Party, while Labor has only 14 hereditary peers. This block of Tories could cause mischief for a Labor leader bent on reshaping Britain's government.

The campaign to dump the hereditary peers grew nasty last spring, when Labor dug into the background of the Tory hereditary peers.

Jack Straw, a leader in the then-opposition Labor Party, asked, "How can the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensbury, the largest private land owner in Britain, who owes his title to the fact that one of his ancestors was the bastard son of Charles II, represent the common man?"

Straw added, "And how can it be right for the Tories to rely on the vote of Lord Vestey, whose great-grandfather bought the title with a £20,000 'donation' to the Conservative Central Office in 1922?" The hereditary peers were not amused by the bashing.

"Before the hereditary peers get kicked out, the government should and must think very carefully how a second chamber should be ultimately constituted," Selborne said.

Even though the Lords may appear far removed from the rest of society, Selborne said they are in tune with modern Britain. "We may look elderly," said Selborne, 57. "But the debates do read well."

One peer who would like to keep his place is 41-year-old Lord Cranborne, the leader of the Conservatives. His family has been active in politics for about 400 years. One of his ancestors was Elizabeth I's chief minister. His great-great-grandfather, the Marquess of Salisbury, was prime minister three times under Queen

Victoria. Selborne is one of his distant cousins.

A member of the House of Lords since 1992, Cranborne will eventually inherit the title of his father, the sixth Marquess of Salisbury.

"I've lived with this all my life," Cranborne said, sitting on a leather couch in front of a fireplace, in his office in the House of Lords.

"It affects different people differently," he said. "Some feel gully. Some feel they have something to live up to. Some people are sort of incredibly proud about it. It gives some an innate superiority over others — which is a stupid reaction. I'm, of course, proud of my family. I certainly wouldn't have gone into politics without my family."

He added with a smile, "I am unquestionably one of the lucky people of the world. I'm not a puritan. Life is there to be enjoyed."

Cranborne said he accepts "that hereditary peerage is not in tune with the zeitgeist." But he added that the House of Lords as a whole does serve a purpose, providing a secure place for the best and brightest to practice politics and quietly influence legislation.

"The purpose of a second chamber here is to act as an independent check on the elected dictatorship of the House of Commons," he said.

Cranborne is pushing for a reform of the House of Lords, hoping the base of peers can be widened, with local governments participating in indirect elections.

"Any reformed House of Lords would be a more powerful House of Lords," he said, "and that is a desirable thing." Yet even Cranborne acknowledged that the days of the hereditary peers may be numbered.

"The sentimentalist would keep some of them," he said. "I think Mr. Blair is committed to getting rid of them all."

(The Baltimore Sun)



Nowhere else to go

Wildreda Ching's children hold on to the bars yesterday in the prison cell they share their mother and five other brothers and sisters in Quezon City. The family was arrested in February for drug pushing. Their father is in a jail for men and they stay with their mother because they have nowhere else to go.

(AP)

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A time to change

Faced with a rapidly spiraling economic crisis, Asians begin to acknowledge the need for economic transformation

By CLAY CHANDLER

WASHINGTON - For almost a decade, economists around the world have debated the proposition that business and government leaders in East Asia had discovered a new strain of capitalism more potent than the free market system so often trumpeted in America.

Pointing to the spectacular success of the Japanese economy since World War II, many experts discerned a uniquely Asian economic model that combined the dynamism of the market with the advantages of centralized government planning. This new system thrived, some admirers said, thanks partly to traditional Confucian virtues: hard work, collective enterprise and respect for authority.

But that notion now appears as feeble as Asia's stock and currency markets.

As global investors flee those markets and governments around the region reluctantly accept financial bailouts, some free-market boosters are gleefully pronouncing Asia's so-called miracle a myth.

The sudden flight of capital from the region "demonstrates what we should have known about these economies all along - that they have no special magic," said Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Paul Krugman.

Many Asians dispute that view, but at the same time, they seem chastened. What is emerging in the aftermath of Asia's financial crisis is a growing recognition that, whatever its virtues, the Japanese-style development model also has many flaws.

Asia's economies are "long overdue for a restructuring," said Viroj Phutrakul, vice chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries. "We overinvested, and some of our investments were ...

overindulgent [and didn't] really contribute to the economy's ability to generate wealth. Now we have to pay for that."

Some Asian leaders reject the need for introspection. At the annual meeting of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Vancouver, British Columbia, this week, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahamad Mahatir renewed his charge that Asia's financial troubles resulted from reckless currency speculation by Western investors, rather than from unsustainable Asian economic policies. Attempts to discredit the Asian development model, he has argued, are little more than gloating by Western "imperialists" who can't bear the thought that non-Western soci-

'The Japanese model was a fantastic catch-up model, but it was not a model for all seasons'

- Economist C. Prestowitz

eties might match their economic achievements.

Other Asians, however, seem more willing to concede that many of the region's current difficulties are a direct outgrowth of the very social and political features that have long been regarded as its greatest strengths:

• Close cooperation between government and industry was once heralded for enabling long-term planning and investment rarely possible in the West. It has

become increasingly obvious that such cozy relations are also vulnerable to exploitation by friends and relatives of political leaders.

• Informal lending practices were once touted as giving Asian firms more flexibility than allowed under the rigorous disclosure rules imposed on similar transactions in America. But the dearth of information released about financial dealings in Asia can also scare away investors worried about hidden risks.

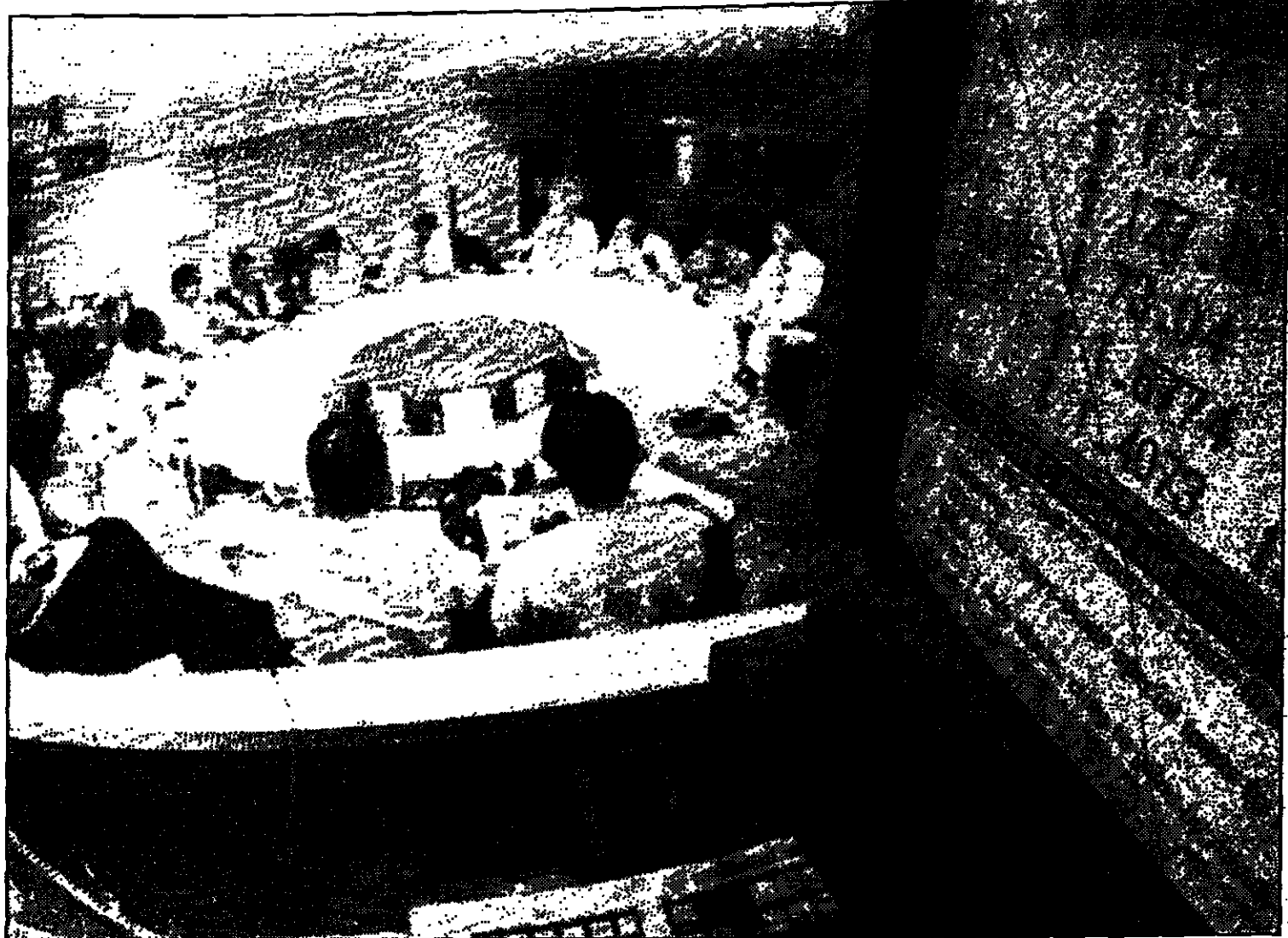
• Government economic policies designed to promote high savings rates and foster exports now draw criticism for slowing development of domestic markets.

The Japanese experience has demonstrated to many in the region that an economic formula that works well in the early stages of development may be untenable in a mature economy.

"The Japanese model was a catch-up model, but it was not a model for all seasons," said Clyde Prestowitz, head of the Washington-based Economic Strategy Institute and one of the first US observers to warn of an Asian challenge. "Now the model has gone bust, and the problem is that no one has figured out how to change it."

South Korean business leaders, who have been among the closest students of the Japanese approach, also say they see a need for change. "The model worked beautifully in the past, but now there is need for a significant adjustment," said Jae-Hyun Hyun, chairman of South Korea's Tong Yang Group.

"The Japanese way shines out as the failure," contends Alan Sinai, chief economist at Primark Decision Economics. "As the other Asian countries think about how to respond from here, I think the model you'll see them attempt to emulate is the US rather than Japan."



A computer screen flashes the dollar rate behind money dealers trading the US currency at a Tokyo foreign exchange brokerage yesterday. Experts wonder whether the Japanese model can be emulated by so many Asian countries all at once. (Reuters)

Writing for the *Atlantic Monthly* in the late 1980s and early 1990s, journalist James Fallows derided American economists who insisted that the Asian model would run out of gas. The limits of the Japanese approach "are still purely theoretical," Fallows declared in a May 1989 essay that pooh-poohed the notion that Japan's expansion had somehow reached its zenith. "No symptom of slowdown can yet be observed. By every measurable indication - corporate profit, personal savings, industrial productivity - Japan is distinctly on the rise."

Japan's economic indicators began sliding the next year, and still have not recovered. The Nikkei stock average is worth less than half its 1989 peak of 38,916, and seven years after the collapse of Japan's speculative financial bubble, the nation's banks are just beginning to get serious about addressing a bad-loan problem estimated to be as large as \$800 billion.

Some analysts also say Asia's financial crisis shows that the Japanese model works only as long as no one else adopts it. But because economies around Asia have pursued similar export-led strategies, the region is pumping out far more cars, television sets, computers and other products than the world can buy.

Many observers argue that the main failing of Asian executives and policy-makers is that, in their rush to catch up with Japan and

the rest of the industrialized nations, they lost sight of the things they were doing right. In Thailand, Hong Kong, Indonesia and South Korea, once-sober executives plunged into wildly speculative investments in real estate, art, golf courses and the like, often with little regard for the bottom line. And many engaged in the sort of conspicuous consumption that Asian leaders have often decried in the US.

Even so, some analysts say those excesses hardly justify the big drop in their financial markets. Harvard University economist Jeffrey Sachs contends that the Asian economies are the victim of a "good old-fashioned bank run." Just as global investors overestimated the region's strengths,

Sachs argues, they now are exaggerating their weaknesses.

"We can surely put to rest the notion that these economies were somehow superior to the rest of the world. But the markets have gone too far the other way.... There is no good reason in the world for the utter reversal in confidence in these economies over the last two months."

Salomon Brothers Inc. economist Robert DiClemente disagrees. "Markets are markets," he says. "They demand respect and discipline. You follow the rules, you win. You break the rules, you lose.... To say that this is the madness of crowds, that's just not a credible story."

(The Washington Post)

Family of Luxor terrorist suffers the consequences

By MICHAEL GEORGY

AL-BADARI, Egypt - Midhat Abdel-Rahman joined Egypt's most feared Moslem militant group after they gave him a job selling sandwiches along the dirt lanes of this southern Egyptian village.

Seven years later, he and five other militants with AK-47 assault rifles shot and knifed to death 58 foreign tourists and four Egyptians before being killed in a shootout in the Luxor temple massacre.

His family and the Egyptian authorities are asking a disturbing question in a land where Moslem guerrillas are bent on toppling the government - What pushed him?

"When they first started brainwashing him, his father used to tell him to come back. But he

wouldn't listen," said his mother, Sa'adiya, sitting on the wall of a roofless mudbrick house with Midhat's sister and aunt.

"One day in 1993, three bearded men came round and he said he was going on a brief errand. We never heard from him again. Then we bought the newspaper after the Luxor attack and we read his name," she said.

Egypt's largest Moslem militant group, al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group), has claimed responsibility for the November 17 attack which was aimed at securing the release of its spiritual leader imprisoned in the US.

The 45-minute killing spree in the southern city of Luxor left Japanese, Swiss, Colombian and British tourists shot or hacked to death in the splendor of the Hatshepsut Temple.

It was the bloodiest attack on foreign tourists in Egypt to date, and it shook the government of President Hosni Mubarak.

The Interior Ministry identified Midhat Abdel-Rahman as one of the six gunmen in the assault. It said he left Egypt in 1993 for Pakistan and Sudan, where he received military training and was involved with leaders of the Gama'a.

"He is one of them and is wanted for many previous attacks, with the case number 3812. He was arrested once before for attacking the guards of a police lieutenant-colonel in Qena," according to the ministry.

Midhat's odyssey to the Luxor temple slaughter began seven years ago, shortly after he completed military service and was eager to find work in this village

of lush green clover fields, 330 km south of Cairo.

Childhood friends who had embraced militant Islam gave him a job selling fava bean sandwiches to earn three pounds (90 cents) a day.

Midhat started growing his beard long and stopped watching television and listening to the radio, which he condemned as un-Islamic, the first clues that he would eventually join a holy war against the government.

Moslem militants have won scores of sympathizers in villages like al-Badari by providing everything from jobs to schoolbooks.

Midhat's family tried to dissuade him from joining the Gama'a, which in 1992 began targeting foreign tourists, Egyptian officials, Christians, and policemen in its bid to seize

power. His father threatened to divorce his mother. His mother urged him to concentrate on his wife and three young children. And his brothers beat him in desperation.

But Midhat was determined to pursue a path that has led hundreds of Moslem militants to prison or military courts, which usually condemn them to the gallows.

Shortly after being released from two months in jail in 1993, he left al-Badari, where children in tattered clothes ride donkeys and women in black shawls carry clay water jugs on their heads.

His family eventually lost hope of finding him. But the authorities did not. His relatives were soon caught up in the violent confrontation between the

government and Moslem militants that has killed nearly 1,200 people.

According to family members, Egyptian police had been holding two of Midhat's brothers in prison in the nearby city of Assiut in order to force him to surrender.

"Mohammed was arrested two and a half years ago and Ahmed was jailed 10 months ago so that Midhat would come back," said their mother.

"They have often arrested and beaten his father to try to get information on him," she said.

While the authorities are scrambling for information on Midhat and the other Luxor gunmen in their bid to crush the militants, his family wonders when their troubles will end.

Midhat's two brothers are still in jail, according to relatives.

His father, uncle and cousin were detained after the Luxor attack for questioning and have yet to be released, Assiut security sources said.

The armored personnel carrier flanked by nervous policemen with bullet-proof vests and Kalashnikov rifles positioned nearby are a bitter reminder of the bloody struggle that claimed his life and left his family in ruins.

"He has destroyed our lives. My father had to stop working because of all our problems with the police, and our brothers can't sell vegetables anymore to help support the family."

"We didn't cry when we heard he was killed," said his sister Salwa.

"He sold us and now we are selling him."

(Reuters)

AGENDA

Continued from Page 1

So Shoval is being cautious in responding to the current offer, both as a result of the previous embarrassment, and because he fears that he will not receive the kind of backing from the prime minister that is required for dealing with such a delicate matter as relations with the US.



Shoval: Cautious (Jeremy Feldman)

A bridge to Baghdad

The breakdown in relations between Netanyahu and US President Bill Clinton was unnecessary.

Had the prime minister navigated the political arena as he had promised upon taking office a year-and-a-half ago, it would have been possible to steer the negotiations with the Palestinians differently.

For example, he could have obtained a more reasonable price than that which he intends to pay to Arafat in the form of the current redeployment, which has met

with fierce opposition from the Right.

Last year's elections left Arafat depressed and the American administration ill at ease for having rooted for Shimon Peres. Had the prime minister immediately delved into some serious Oslo-related work - by mapping out possible permanent borders, for example - things would be different today.

He could have achieved silent agreement from Jordan's King Hussein on keeping the Jordan Valley under Israeli military control, at least for as long as the danger from the eastern front remained. He could have widened the belt agreed upon in the understanding between Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Yossi Beilin to include Greater Jerusalem.

Had he presented a clear plan, the Americans would have backed it as a way of salvaging any part of the process possible. Even if they did not buy the whole package, they would have proposed a flexible arrangement in the Jordan Valley; one which would include an assessment of the area every few years, taking any new developments on the eastern front into account.

The US understands that it is in its own interest, as well as Jordan's, for Israel to have control in the Jordan Valley, as this would prevent the area from becoming an "Arafatian bridge" from Ramallah to Baghdad. This is based on conversations with senior American administration officials.

Even now, the situation is not beyond repair. The government can still implement a redeployment which would involve the transfer of between eight and 10

percent of Israeli-controlled territory to the Palestinians - with Clinton and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's consent - in order to begin final-status negotiations.

The third redeployment must be separate from these negotiations. It must be generous, well thought out, and agreed upon by the US. This is to create a new status quo in the event that the negotiations fail.

Such a package - which would include a continuation of Israel's military control in the Jordan Valley - could include a temporary halt of settlements, as demanded by the Palestinians and supported by the US.

To achieve such a goal, it is not enough for Netanyahu's credibility to be restored in Clinton's eyes. What it requires is for the American administration to take the prime minister seriously again. National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon tried to work on this while in Washington last week. But the problem with Netanyahu is that not only won't he let on which hand you should be offering him, in the end, he bites it.

In a telephone conversation I had this week, a senior Washington source said, "You know, it's incredible that the Jewish organizations have completely stopped supporting your prime minister. There have been rough periods in relations between our two countries in the past, but the Jews have always stood by Israel. Former US president George Bush's alienation of Shamir cost him his second term. In this case, there is no trace of such [a response]."

For months the US administration attributed Netanyahu's performance to inexperience. White



Clinton: Wants generous redeployment (Israel Sun)

House advisers who had reminded Clinton that it had taken time for him to get organized when he first took office, too, and that Netanyahu would come around, have lost hope in the last few months.

Netanyahu, who knew very well how to imitate Clinton during the "hot videotape" affair, would do well to imitate the reorganization that the president undertook during his second year in the White House, by removing his friends and replacing them with top-notch professionals.

Maybe Shoval is a step in this direction. Since taking office, the prime minister has been lacking someone in his inner circle who would look him squarely in the eye.

Someone who would tell him occasionally: "Mr. Prime Minister, the idea you raised is great. Give me three hours to consider its consequences." Perhaps this would have prevented some of his problems.

Shoval is capable of speaking not only to Netanyahu at eye-

level, but to ministers and the Americans as well. And someone like Shoval might be just the person to remind the Americans - not from the hip, the way it was done recently - that "Bill needs Bibi just as much as Bibi needs Bill."

Preventive medicine

This week, four months late, the prime minister finally appointed a military secretary. Brig.-Gen. Mati Harari is considered by the IDF to be on the ball. He is a kibbutznik. He is close to the chief of general staff and trusted by the head of intelligence. His true test will be in his ability to win the trust of the prime minister.

The timing of this appointment is definitely related to the upcoming conclusions of the commission investigating the Mashaal Affair.

This week the prime minister testified before the Knesset subcommittee on secret services for nearly three hours. The conversation focused on the decision-making process in his office. Netanyahu will not be found responsible for the screw-up in Amman. But he cannot shirk responsibility for the functioning of his office where security is concerned.

He will not be able to ignore the sharp statements of the former military secretary, Maj-Gen. Ze'ev Livne, who emphasized the need for a well-staffed military secretary's office due to the prime minister's lack of experience.

In the past, there were prime ministers who read raw intelligence material obsessively, like Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin, who entered into every minor operational detail. Shimon Peres settled for knowing the big

picture, but he made sure his assistants focused on the lines and on everything between the lines.

But Netanyahu reads very little material relating to economics, foreign policy, or even defense. The intelligence reports which reach him are filtered.

His office is kept virtually in the dark by the Foreign Ministry. Mayhem reigns.

Clinton had a similar problem when he entered the White House. But the CIA puts together a daily presidential briefing on the most sensitive material it gathers. The six- or seven-page document is brought to the White House every morning at dawn by an armored convoy from CIA headquarters in Virginia.

Only six pairs of eyes see it: those of the president, the vice president, the national security adviser, the assistant national security adviser, the vice president's security adviser, and the chief of secret services. Without this briefing, no one in the White House would dare make any security-related decision.

In Israel there is danger of various elements manipulating intelligence reports. The prime minister doesn't even know which reports he has the right to see. The committees investigating the Mashaal Affair are going to examine this issue.

Important to note

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky returns from Europe today to give momentum to a renewed effort to establish a national unity government. Sharansky is worried not only by having Lieberman - who will begin fervently courting the

Russian vote - breathing down his neck. He wants national unity because he thinks that's the only way to make progress on important national issues.

The political establishment is casting aspersions on Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's willingness to join such an effort, which is likely to assist in Netanyahu's recovery. But a senior American source in Washington told me that



Sharansky: Wants unity (Rolf Koelber)

he heard from someone in Barak's inner circle who had come to Washington that there is no ruling out such an option.

Along these lines, last week MK Reuven Rivlin met with Abbas in the home of Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny.

Abbas, for the first time, confirmed to a member of the Likud that Beilin's interpretation of their joint document is not baseless. This might not cause Rivlin to sign the document, but it did inspire him to apologize to Beilin for having called his efforts a "pipe dream." Perhaps this, too, bodes well.



Poet with a punch An apocalyptic border

By Helen Kaye

On the first day of her creative writing class at Rutgers University, Alicia Ostriker tells her students "to write what you are afraid to write. Whatever you are ashamed to think, feel or say, whatever is unpoetic, that is your material."



Alicia Ostriker

Ostriker is a poet, and such is the material of her poems. She writes about anything, everything, and speaks unflinchingly to its heart, whether her subject is dogs on the beach, a burn, the massacre at Bab Yar, her daughter's marriage or her own mastectomy seven years ago.

She will be here next week to give a talk, to read from her latest book, and to present the prizes to the four winners of *Voices*' 8th International Reuben Rose Memorial Poetry Competition, of which she was the judge. (Dvora Kreda-Geller won first prize; Linda Rogers and Gretti Izhak came second and third, respectively.)

herself, and read me poetry. I was reciting poems before I could read and write. I wrote poems all through school that appeared in the school journals.

Her first published poem was in the literary magazine *Sewanee Review* when she was in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, where she got her doctorate in 1964. Her dissertation was on William Blake, and she annotated an anthology of his poems in 1977.

the three books on women and their poetry she has published since 1983. Between 1960 and 1980, "when women were coming out of the closet physically and culturally, there was an explosion of women's poetry."

"There were differences between men's and women's poetry. Women wrote about the body with more intimacy, and women's poetry worked to overturn the dualism of Western culture which seeks to divide rather than unite. Today there's less difference between men's and women's writing. Many of the qualities in women's poetry have influenced the mainstream."

"A *Crack in Everything* epitomizes what she believes about poetry. It is deeply personal and as deeply universal. Not all the poems are as marvelous, but each of them, and I think especially if the reader is a woman, evokes that sudden crack of recognition. This holds, whether she writes tenderly of a fellow artist's creative crisis, "Ceramic women survive their erotic petals and pollen, grasp dirt, bite stones/Mastering I can't go on, I'll go on..." or speaks of married love in a wedding poem to her newly wedded daughter as "different from everything else... Difficult dangerous life, we are up to our eyeballs in it, we'll never stop."

Or finally the poems on the mastectomy she underwent in 1990 in which she goes the gamut from terror to acceptance to joy again. Ostriker explains the mastectomy poems, saying: "I wrote them as I write any other 'big' poem, knowing that I have a theme that is important and meaningful to me, and will be so to others if I can explore its depths and bring it to form and language, in all its complexity."

As she tells her students that their first task is the kill the internal censor, so Ostriker is not embarrassed to write about her personal experiences "because we are thirsty for the kind of intimacy that poems can bring us. I am a child of [Walt] Whitman who said, 'through me forbidden voices,' and I love Shostakovich's saying that 'art destroys silence.'"

She has two daughters, a son, and a three-year-old granddaughter. She loves to travel and to draw, but "I am almost always working, teaching or writing. Until I was 40, when people asked me what I did, I used to say, 'I teach English.' But today I say with pride, 'I am a poet.'"

By Anne-Marie O'Connor

Carlos Fuentes has called the U.S.-Mexico border "a scar." He has fictionalized it as an apocalyptic no-man's land called Mexamerica.

And now, in *The Crystal Frontier*, the acclaimed Mexican novelist revisits the border and finds a powerful new prism for the relationship between two countries - and the front lines of a potentially decisive encounter between two worlds.

"The border is an exciting opportunity to create a culture of understanding between two nations. It is the meeting ground, not just between the United States and Mexico, but between the United States and all of Latin America," Fuentes says. "We have a great opportunity to either foster understanding, interchange and culture - or to condemn each other to suspicion, violence, even murder, xenophobia and genocide."

During a recent stop at his idyllic home in a suburban neighborhood of Mexico City, Fuentes (who lives much of the year in London) characterized anti-immigrant backlash, both in the United States and Europe, as a dangerous resurgence of racism deeply embedded in Western society.

"After the history of the 20th century - which is one of the most brutal, violent centuries on human record - to resurrect the ghost of xenophobia, racism, hatred of the other, is exposing oneself once more to the worst crimes of our age," he says. "One would have thought these lessons had been learned."

He finds the backlash reflective of a general amnesia over the birth of a vast stretch of the border region, during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) when the States seized a huge chunk of Mexican territory.

"Let us not forget that the U.S. Southwest was once part of Mexico, and the Hispanic roots are very deep. The Anglos are the newcomers, and no one asked them for green cards when they arrived in the Southwest." Nine interwoven short stories, *The Crystal Frontier* is a crossroads for a grass-roots globalism that Fuentes sees as reaching into the hearts of both countries.

The author follows immigrants who push the border - and the love-hate relationship between the United States and its illegal servants - as far north as Chicago, where an elderly woman repays the kindness of her Mexican caretaker with ethnic slurs. And south to a Guanajuato village where everyone lives on dollars sent back by emigrant relatives.

Fuentes introduces nouveau riche Leonardo Barroso, a decadent, ruthless border business baron who marries his son to a luscious young woman so he can take her as his lover. And Fuentes unveils the working girls of Barroso's factories, who trade seductively poor villages for border jobs and come gamey with low wages and sexual harassment.

Fuentes' border is as transparent as the plate glass that, in one chapter of his novel, separates a handsome undocumented Mexican janitor and a lonely businesswoman. And porous enough for anything - drugs, language, people, culture - to cross.

It is not the first time Fuentes has used the border as a metaphor for the divisions between people. Previously, it has symbolized the frontiers between the races, between men and women and life and death, or the battles his characters fight with themselves.

Nor is it the first time Fuentes has found an alchemy of economic disparity, sexual politics and cultural identity conflicts in the drags of Manifest Destiny, or used his characters to explain Mexico to the United States and vice versa.

Fuentes - who turned 69 on November 11 - said his lifelong impulse to translate between the two cultures began when he was four and his diplomat father moved the family to Washington, D.C. Fuentes attended grade school there for seven years, with summers in Mexico.

"I had to start explaining myself to gringos and trying to understand them myself," he recalls.

He has offered his insights on Latin America to President Clinton, whom he finds "very intelligent, not one of those boorish US politicians" like Jesse Helms or "that loudmouth" Pat Buchanan.

Fuentes recommended that Clinton normalize relations with Communist Cuba.

"Fidel Castro has survived because the United States has kept him in power," Fuentes says. "The biggest card in his hand is, 'Look, I am defending you against the US imperialists.'"

Unlike his friend Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Colombia's Nobel laureate, Fuentes is not a friend of Castro's. He believes Che Guevara would be surprised to find himself the official patron saint of a revolution "that has failed in so many aspects he held close to his heart. He would not like to see a country that lives on tourism by day and prostitution by night."

Fuentes says he still has not forgiven a "Cuban skunk apparition" for denouncing him as a traitor in the 1960s after he accepted an invitation (from Arthur Miller) to attend a PEN conference in the States. In an ironic testimony to the vagaries of the Cold War, Fuentes was banned from the States during the same era, under the McCarran-Walter Act, a McCarthy-era relic whose list of suspicious foreigners once included such distinguished writers as Garcia Marquez, Pablo Neruda and Graham Greene.

"I was in happy company," Fuentes says, smiling.

Even if he criticizes US policy toward Latin America, Fuentes professes "enormous" identification with US culture.

Like Garcia Marquez and others behind the Latin literature boom, Fuentes acknowledges a great debt to Faulkner and other writers from the United States. Without them, he said, "there would be no modern Latin American novel or poetry."

"And jazz!" he added. "You can't think of the work of Julio Cortazar without invoking Charlie Parker and Louis Armstrong." This Janus-faced view is a

schism that Fuentes says is common among Latin intellectuals. "We view the United States as a kindly cultural Dr. Jekyll that gives you jazz and films and poetry by day, and a horrible Mr. Hyde that appears by night and ravages our countries."

"In Latin America traditionally, especially under dictatorships, if the writer did not speak, no one would," Fuentes says. "So writers have been called upon to speak for the voiceless. That gave the writer a special weight, a star quality."

In the United States, novelists - like scientists and intellectuals - are increasingly overshadowed by Hollywood celebrities. In Fuentes's eyes, a host of pressing US social problems - like the widening gap between the rich and poor - are given similarly short shrift.

"It is more important to know whether Sharon Stone wears underwear or not than how much a black family makes in Jesse Helms's state" of North Carolina, Fuentes says. "Most of the news is about show business and the comings and goings of movie stars. This cult of celebrity sweeps social problems under the rug, and that means the problems will explode someday." Fuentes has had his own encounters with Hollywood.

There was his brief affair with illustrated actress Jean Seberg, which inspired his erotic novel *Diana, The Goddess Who Hunts Alone*. There was the cinematic version of *The Old Gringo*, Fuentes's mythlike tale of the mysterious disappearance of Ambrose Bierce during the Mexican revolution. The film emerged as an almost absurd caricature. Fuentes says he declined to see it.

He is returning to one of *The Old Gringo*'s most compelling themes - the relationship between men and women - in his next novel.

"I think it's a big theme in life," Fuentes says. "Mexican society is founded on very chauvinistic principles inherited from the Aztecs, the Spaniards and the Arabs. We have a triple misogynistic inheritance that is very hard to overcome." He said it intrigues him that women writers - he named Sandra Cisneros, Amy Tan, Toni Morrison, Cristina Garcia - have emerged at the forefront of a new wave of multicultural fiction.

"I am fascinated by the evolution of the changing status of women [in Mexico]," he says. "I'm trying to reflect all the changes that have taken place which have given women more independence, more political clout, more personality in Mexican society. Today you see a presence of women - in politics, business, teaching, the arts, literature - that was inconceivable 50 years ago."

(Los Angeles Times)

Woman behind the artist

THE CRACK IN EVERYTHING by Alicia Ostriker. Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press. 101pp. \$10.95.

By Mike Scheidemann

There is a crack, a crack in everything/That's how the light gets in," Leonard Cohen tells us.

Alicia Ostriker has published seven books of poetry, which have been translated into several languages including Hebrew, Arabic and Japanese. She has won numerous awards and endowments, and though lauded by the American intellectual establishment, she has her inimitable aligned with the beat of American life. Nor has she forgotten her Jewish heritage. Her poem "6th & 13th" won the 1994 Anna Rosenberg Award for poems on the Jewish experience. "ALLeningrad..." Three million dead were born/Out of Christ's bloody side. Like icy/Fuentes."

Only someone haunted by Holocaust memories could write this.

"Most of my symphonies are tombstones,"

said Shostakovich? All poets are Jews, - said Tsvetayeva, "meaning that Jews are adept at confronting death and making something sublime of it."

But this is not a morbid book. It is a celebration through acute observation of our fellow beings. "As if there could be a world of absolute innocence/in which we forget ourselves..."

When she allows herself, Ostriker can be richly sensual: "Black dogs, tan dogs./Tubes of glorious muscle-/...Shining wet with passionate speed/ For nothing/ For absolutely nothing but joy."

All mature poets desire to impart some wisdom: "You remember the extremes/Wingenstein says/ There is no such thing as ordinary/ Experience..."

She turns to every conceivable experience, on giving birth: "It frightened him so terribly he wanted/ To tell the obstetrician if he had a choice/ To let the baby go and save his wife."

Ostriker's best is a happy combination of humor and irony. She is a master of understatement. Why should a mature poet get

overly intense about everything? "I'd watch your eyes that learned bewilderment/ When all you loved/ Stopped meeting your free, limitless gaze."

From modern life she creates modern poetry. "The creature's gamble on the whirl of life/ And every adolescent body hot/ Enough to sweat it out on the dance floor/s a laboratory..."

Ezra Pound claimed that the only place for a sane man in America was a lunatic asylum. Ostriker does not concur. "And when you find yourself secretly peeping/ Through the window bars at menstrual red sunsets/ You decide you cannot tolerate the other loonies, another day/ So you behave sanely and leave..."

Ostriker transmutes the rough stuff of life into gems of poetic experience, but this anthology really reveals something of the woman behind the artist. Therein lies its charm. "I thought you sliced me like green honeydew/ Or like pomegranate full of seeds/ Tart as Persephone..."

Honesty is her hallmark.

BOOK BYTES

By day Keri Beevis works for a travel agency, earning a meager \$9,000 a year. By night she writes horror fiction on a computer in her bedroom.

The 25-year-old author recently signed a \$750,000 contract, said to be the highest ever advance paid out to a first-time author in Britain. None the less, the publishers Buckley Bennion "consider it to be a wise investment" for a three-book deal. Hollywood is in the wings ready to turn the trilogy into screenplays, which could spin over \$3 million.

Beevis's first book, *When the Pen Writes*, written in six weeks, is about two friends who write horror stories that are mysteriously copied by a killer in real life. "I like to think that I have a really vivid imagination and always go for a twist in the tale," says Beevis, who writes under a pen name, Keri Leigh. "My main inspiration was all sorts of horror films." Incidentally, while in school, Beevis twice failed her basic O-level examination in English.

JERUSALEM-based author Barbara Sofer won the Association of Jewish Libraries' Sydney Taylor Award in the young children's division for her book, *Shalom, Haver; Goodbye, Friend* (Kav-Ben Copies). The book is a photo album commemorating the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Many of the rare photographs were borrowed from Rabin's sister, 300 words of English and Hebrew text on the theme of friendship complement the pictures.

Also, Sofer's first novel, *The Thirteenth Hour* (Signet), will soon be published in paperback and available in Israel in time for Hanukka.

ine that an author is entitled to as many free copies of his book as he chooses to claim from the publisher." Such people are deeply distressed when, in reply to a request for a free copy, the author suggests they buy the book. The convention, writes Nicolson, is that publishers are obliged to give authors only six complimentary copies of their work. Additional copies may be bought at reduced rates. On the other hand there are authors who freely dole out their books. The writer hopes for a favorable mention or review. Often the unwilling recipients are well-known people. Whenever this happened to the late British prime minister Harold Macmillan, he repeated his stock formula, "Thank you for your book. I look forward to reading it."

THE OLD adage not to judge a book by its cover should, in some cases, also apply to titles. Eric Naiman's title *Sex in Public* (Princeton University Press) is a swiz, to put it mildly. A closer look reveals the work to be a study of "early Soviet ideology." Naiman investigates Soviet crime, disease and, oh yes, sex in the form of "the ideological importance of the female body." That kind of kills the libido.

A LOINCLOTH advertised in the upmarket J. Peterman clothing catalog inspired the editors of Andrews and McMeel to publish a satirical version. *The J. Peterman Catalog: A Very Tasteful Parody* contains nearly 100 entries illustrated by Peterman-like sketches. Among the garments shown are a "virtual reality coat, guaranteed to make you as attractive off-line as on," and "the Sing-Sing shirt... One size: Large. One color: Gray. You got a problem with that?"

David Brauner

The New York Times BESTSELLERS

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|--|---|---|--|--|
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| 2. <i>Cat & Mouse</i> by James Patterson (Little, Brown \$24.95) Alex Cross versus two serial killers. | 2. <i>The Dark Side of Camelot</i> by Seymour Hersh (Little, Brown \$26.95) A journalist's reappraisal of the private and public life of John F. Kennedy. | 2. <i>Unfinished Symphony</i> by V.C. Andrews (Pocket \$7.50) Melody Logan goes to California in quest of her missing mother and stepfather. | 2. <i>Under the Tuscan Sun</i> by Frances Mayes (Broadway \$13) A celebration of the Italian countryside by a poet. | 2. <i>Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul</i> compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger (Health Communications \$12.95) Inspiration. |
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| 6. <i>The Letter</i> by Richard Paul Evans (Simon & Schuster \$15.95) In the last volume of the "Christmas Box" trilogy, the Parkin family recovers from the loss of a daughter. | 6. <i>The Man Who Listens to Horses</i> by Morny Roberts (Random House \$23) The memoirs of a horse trainer. | 6. <i>Airtame</i> by Michael Critchton (Ballantine \$7.95) A young woman probes a plane's near disaster on its way from Hong Kong to Denver. | 6. <i>Into the Wild</i> by Jon Krakauer (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95) A young man's obsession with the wilderness ends tragically in Alaska. | 6. <i>Simple Abundance</i> by Sarah Ban Breathnach (Warner \$17.95) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves. |
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| 8. <i>Lucky You</i> by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf \$24) A journalist undertakes to help a woman whose winning lottery ticket has been stolen. | 8. <i>Diane: Her True Story - In Her Own Words</i> by Andrew Morton (Simon & Schuster \$22.95) The 1992 bestseller, updated and expanded. | 8. <i>Tom Clancy's Power Plays: Politics created by Tom Clancy and Martin Greenberg (Bantam \$7.50) In 1989, an American contends with terrorists threatening his business in Russia.</i> | 8. <i>Hanson</i> by Jill Matthews (Archway/Pocket \$3.95) The story of the pop-rock group. | 8. <i>Don't Worry, Make Money</i> by Richard Carlson (Hyperion \$15.95) Ways to achieve a more enjoyable and profitable life. |
| 9. <i>Come the Spring</i> by Julie Garwood (Pocket \$24) The visit of a stranger to the Claycombes' reunion threatens to spoil the family's happiness. | 9. <i>Conversations with God: Book 1</i> by Neale Donald Walsch (Putnam \$19.95) Questions of good and evil, guilt and sin. | 9. <i>Ellen Forster</i> by Kaye Gibbons (Vintage \$10) A girl learns self-reliance growing up with wicked relatives in the backwoods South. | 9. <i>Girlfriends</i> by Carmen Renee Berry (Wildcat Canyon \$12.95) The ties that bind women of all ages. | |
| 10. <i>Comanche Moon</i> by Larry McMurtry (Simon & Schuster \$28.50) Two Texas Rangers battle defiant Comanche Indians. | | | 10. <i>Reviving Ophelia</i> by Mary Pipher (Ballantine \$12.50) The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls. | |



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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Romema, Jerusalem 9100
Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9527, CIRCULATION—02-531-5610, 177-022-2278, Fax 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING—
02-531-5608, 02-531-5638-40 Fax 02-538-9408, TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Haiznanim, P.O.B. 23398 (61183) Telephone 03-6390333,
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Keep inflation and spending in check

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman hit the nail on the head when he said, "Unemployment is the number one problem in Israel today. To achieve a solution there must be a reduction in government expenditures, to allow the private sector to create jobs."

Rather than continuing to dodge the barbs from the "social caucus" regarding unemployment, Neeman is correctly meeting them head-on. The budget debate has shifted from whether unemployment is the key problem to who has the real solution for bringing it down.

Unemployment, according to the third-quarter figures just released, has hit a three-year high of 8.1 percent. The psychologically important barrier of 8 percent has been broken, but we are still considerably below the 11 percent high reached in 1992. The new figures not only merit concern, but action. The question is, as Neeman said, whether the correct medicine is the course of fiscal restraint proposed by the government or the spending-as-usual demanded by the social caucus.

Now that Neeman has faced the fact that reducing unemployment is a — perhaps the — major goal of government economic policy, he should badger the social caucus into admitting that combating inflation is as important an objective. Listening to the industrialists rail against high interest rates in the name of fighting unemployment, one might think that inflation created jobs. In fact, as Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel will point out until he goes hoarse, inflation does not create jobs, it destroys them — while eating away at the salaries of the weaker sectors, to boot.

If there is ever a time when businesses tend to shelve plans for expansion, it is when inflation is high. Inflation wreaks havoc with costs and with public spending habits, creating an uncertain business climate. The fact that some industrialists think a bit of inflation is good — perhaps because their salaries are inflation-linked and those of their workers are not — should hardly be a reason for the social caucus to take up the same cry.

On Sunday, International Monetary Fund Vice-President Stanley Fischer stated that inflation in Israel could well fall to a 29-year low of 7% next year if current fiscal and monetary policies are maintained. This is good news for everyone, but primarily for the weaker sectors, whose standard of living is eaten away at both ends by inflation.

The Bank of Israel, not surprisingly, acted in tune with Fischer's statement by holding fast on interest rates. At his Monday announcement, Frenkel cited the uncertainty in world financial markets and the need to reduce inflation in line with the 1998 government target of 7%-10%.

Inflation is currently running at about 8.5%, but Frenkel is aiming for the lower end of the target and beyond. As he pointed out, the government has a goal of reducing inflation to some 4% by 2001, which would bring Israel in line with the inflation levels among Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries.

The central bank used the interest-rate announcement to reiterate another self-imposed economic target: a growth rate of 5%. If this is achieved with spending and inflation kept under control, the economy will suddenly become a job-creation engine. The bank's goals, therefore, should not be thought of as some stern edict from green-eyed dictators on high, but as the sustainable, long-term approach toward reducing unemployment and increasing standards of living across the board.

To achieve this goal, the bank warned that "Particular caution is needed concerning the budget framework and the deficit, on which the government has already decided, and on the wage agreements." Unfortunately, the government is headed into next month's annual budget battle in a weakened state, so it will be especially tough to hold the line. A critical component of holding that line should be to take the wind out of the spend-till-you-drop rhetoric of the social caucus by showing how it hurts the very people it claims to help.

It is always possible to argue in good faith about this or that budget cut. Parties, ministers, or MKs would not be doing their job if they did not vigorously defend the interests they represent. At the same time, each has a responsibility not to ignore the broader, long-term economic interests of the nation, including their constituents. Those interests demand that anyone who resists one cut, must propose an alternative, so that the overall budget targets are met or exceeded, without resorting to new taxes.

If Netanyahu and Neeman succeed in enforcing this rule, it will be a real achievement for this government and for the national interest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STAR-SWITCHING

Sir, — There's certainly no accounting for taste. Sometimes I think I must reverse the star ratings given by your film critic Adina Hoffman. Regarding the film "G.I. Jane", which got one lousy star. I think it is an exceptional, original film, a completely new idea with Demi Moore not only playing the hero, but really acting like a hero.

Not many women would have been able to do what she did in this film. And why was Moore's recent striptease vain? And now we get to the glorious film "The Peacemaker" which got three glorious stars. It is the most original film on the screen, full of hackneyed American scenes — car races, the search for the elusive villain, and finally the destroy-all weapon with the counter giving the finder just 26 seconds — 2 minutes on the screen — to deactivate it, succeeding in the last tenth of a second. James Bond films do it better.

Nicole Kidman's acting is zero compared to Demi Moore's. So I switched the stars.

WERNER BRAUN
Jerusalem.

INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC

Sir, — On the anniversary of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, a clear and unambiguous message was unanimously sent forth from the Knesset: No more needless hatred. No more incitement. For most of us it was received as a welcome breath of fresh air. It was therefore most disappointing and disturbing to see that message so quickly ignored and rejected by *Jerusalem Post* columnist Amotz Asa-El. He concludes his article of November 14 by predicting that "an ideologically charged, socially cohesive, and emotionally enthusiastic Shas will have sunk its teeth even deeper into the Likud's dangling flesh and depleted bones, come the next elections."

The message is clear: Shas is not simply a duly elected political party with whom one may legitimately disagree and even criticize. It is a carnivorous monster, it is therefore not to be challenged and confronted by ordinary, civilized, democratic means. It is something to be loathed and killed. I would hope that Asa-El would apologize and resolve to eliminate this type of hate-filled, inflammatory rhetoric from his otherwise intelligent remarks.

DR. JEFFREY TILLMAN
Ra'anana.

HEBREW DATES

Sir, — Both Independence Day and Jerusalem Day are observed on the anniversary corresponding to the Hebrew date, as are all major official ceremonies, yet the Rabin family together with Labor and politically Left organizations commemorated the anniversary of the murder of the late prime minister Rabin on the secular date. Is this a message that they have abandoned traditional Jewish customs? Even in the Diaspora, *Yahrzeit* is kept according to the Hebrew date by people far removed from any Jewish observance.

Coincidentally, the speech by the president of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation in Kikar Rabin mentioned the year 70 AD instead of 70 CE. Is this another clear message by those who no longer accept Jewish practice? By using the term 70 AD the president of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation has, perhaps erroneously, accepted Christian teaching or has become so far remote from Judaism (of all facets) that he is unaware of the difference. If it was good enough for the founding fathers of the State to use the date according to the Hebrew calendar then so should it be for the political Left, unless their aim is to bring the downfall of the third Jewish Commonwealth.

DR. COLIN L. LECT
Jerusalem (Middx, England).

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On November 27, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that the UN General Assembly continued the debate and was preparing to vote on the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Committee to set up Jewish and Arab States in Palestine. Of the 17 countries who abstained from the Ad-Hoc Committee's vote New Zealand, Holland and Belgium were now declared in favor of Partition, while Haiti and Greece were against it. With these changes the tentative poll stood at 28 Ayes and 14 Nays. The US-Soviet Union's unity remained unbroken. Observers noted that the

British evacuation from Palestine would be followed by Arab States' race for occupation of the Holy Land.

Two young members of the Stern Group, Yehoshua Krubelnik and Mordechai Sofer, were sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with the bombing of the Cairo-Haifa train on August 9.

The Palestine Government's Public Information Office sent to London for special photographic equipment to make copies of all land registration documents and other important papers. It was estimated that about 2 million micro-photos would be taken.

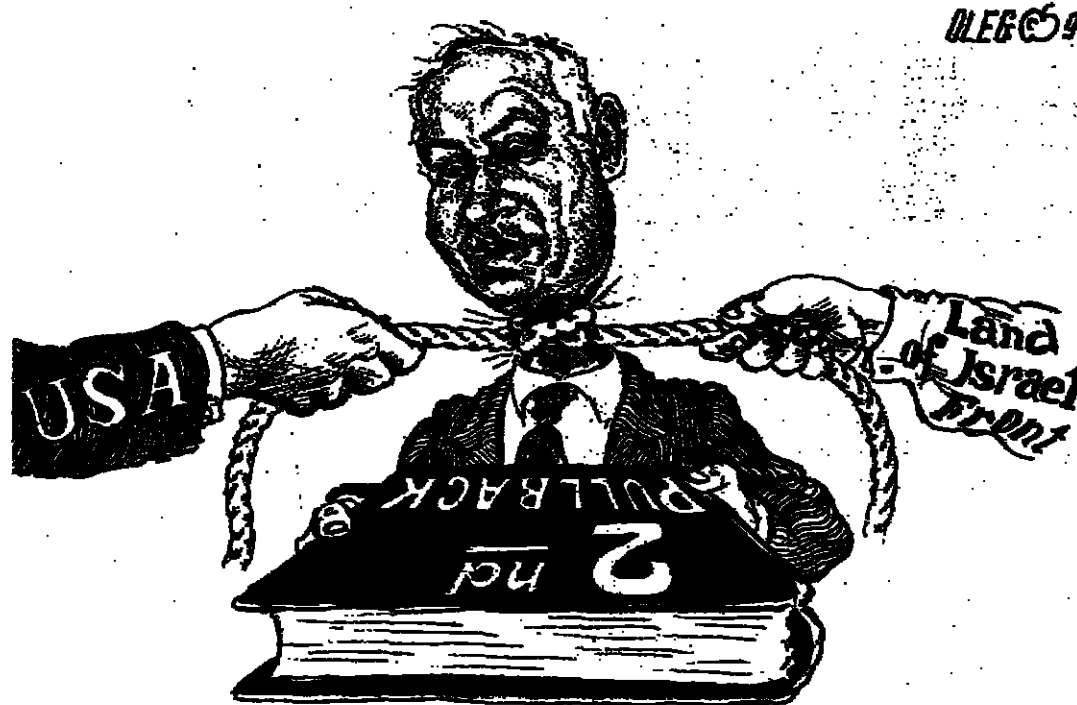
25 years ago: On November

27, 1997, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Egypt had rejected Israel's message appealing to it not to get involved in Syria's border provocations. The Foreign Ministry had kept in constant touch with major powers with regard to tension along the cease-fire line with Syria.

Jordan adopted measures aimed at limiting the flow of Jordanian currency and visitors into the West Bank.

Eight Japanese terrorists were sought in Rome after weapons caches were found in the transit lounge of Leonardo Da Vinci airport.

Alexander Zvielli



War of the Jews

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

Led by Jupiter, or Jove as his underlings called him behind his back, the entire pantheon of currently unemployed Roman gods will surely be rocking with laughter today. Playing out before their eyes is a re-run of the tragic war of the Jews which led to the destruction of the Second Temple and their exile from the Promised Land for close on 2,000 years.

Then it was Herod who spawned the self-destructive seeds of disaster by rusting off to Rome to evoke the help of the emperor to guarantee his role as King of the Jews. The rest is history. The Romans, using Herod as their Trojan horse, turned the land of Israel into a Roman colony and exploited the bitter in-fighting among the stiff-necked Hebrews by nearly exterminating them.

Today, so-called "peace loving" US Jewish leaders, egged on by fellow-minded Israelis such as the acute of hearing Shimon Peres and his comrades-in-arms, along with Martin Indyk, now Assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs, are following the same disastrous course pursued by Herod.

It was Indyk, who when ambassador to Israel moved heaven and earth to persuade President Bill Clinton to support Peres instead of Binjamin Netanyahu in the 1996 elections.

Although he failed disastrously, Indyk continued to ignore his role as a neutral in local affairs. He tried to sway members of the Netanyahu government to make conciliatory concessions towards Yasser Arafat in order to revive the Oslo Accords, no matter how blatantly the PLO leader failed to live up to a single one of his commitments made when he signed the agreement.

It was not so much this issue, but rather the vexed "who is a Jew" problem which prompted Netanyahu to undertake his recent trip to Indianapolis. He explained to the general assembly of the Jewish federations' 3,000 delegates how he was trying, thanks to the patient skills of Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman to reach a compromise on this issue by the 31st of January.

Many US Jewish leaders have called on their communities to cease making contributions to Israel over this issue, even though there is a strong belief that a com-

promise will be found. True, their promises are legitimate. But also legitimate is the fact that Netanyahu is the prime minister of Israel, and that the majority of its citizens see the conversion issue as only one part of the ongoing secular-religious divide which has always been a source of friction in their country.

Many US Jews are being manipulated by Israeli left-wing politi-

from where these leaks spring. In his new high-profile role, Indyk has certainly not suddenly changed his views that Peres would be a better prime minister than Netanyahu. Nor is there any doubt that Albright, still feeling her way in her new job, cannot be pleased at being given a total brush-off in her efforts to sway the one-time US Arab "friends" to support Clinton.

Yet as this column discovered during Netanyahu's recent visit to the US, it soon became clear that both Clinton and his deputy, Al Gore, are more sympathetic towards Israel and its position than are the vociferous voices of many American Jewish leaders. As an example, the negative Netanyahu sentiments allegedly expressed by Clinton within the hearing of Shimon Peres's super sharp sensitive ears have been denied by the White House.

Senior US officials also rejected reports, both in Israel and the US, that Clinton threatened Netanyahu with getting really tough unless Netanyahu produced a credible timetable for further West Bank troop withdrawals. And there was a denial too about threats made by Albright in the same vein.

As this column heard at first hand, the hue and cry about the two men not meeting when both visited California during Netanyahu's US visit, is total nonsense. We discovered that there was no presidential summit meeting. Netanyahu was taking a little time off from his heavy White House duties to relax in the Malibu area.

Back here in Israel, the daggers are out and the obituaries are being prepared for Netanyahu, if one were to take Israeli press reports seriously, such as that published in *Ha'aretz* two days ago with what can only be called admirable left-wing objectivity: "This government is clinically dead."

Maybe... or maybe not. Either way Jove and his fellow Roman deities in their retirement residence, wherever that might be, most certainly will be laughing their heads off at the stupidity of the squabbling Jews, who have learnt nothing from the grim lesson taught them 2,000 years ago.

The writers are Jerusalem Post columnists.

It is impossible to know precisely

the writers are Jerusalem Post columnists.

Pipe dreams

LARRY DERFNER

If only we could all come together. If only we could speak with One Voice.

Then the Palestinians would see that we're united, determined, and they would have no choice but to give in to us. Then we would have peace.

Most Israelis still believe this. I'm sure Bibi Netanyahu believes it. Ehud Barak at least pretends to. It's an old Israeli pipe dream, but one that's taken on new meaning and urgency. It even has a slogan that goes perfectly with the current national mood: "We have to make peace among ourselves before we can make peace with our neighbors." Irresistible. To believe in it, all anybody needs to do is forget Israeli-Palestinian history, and who doesn't want to do that?

This "peace among ourselves" line isn't just a platitude, either; it's a code for a fairly detailed political program, and a very popular one.

It says that Israel would be better off with a national unity government.

Labor and Likud, religious and secular — everybody but the Arabs. A consensus. A wall.

It also says that this national unity government should offer the Palestinians much, less than would Meretz, but more than would the National Religious Party.

Somewhere around the latitude of The Third Way or the left-wing of the Likud.

The deal would be roughly this: Israel keeps all of "Greater Jerusalem," the Jordan Valley, all the settlements, plus whatever's needed for water, safe transportation and security. Whatever's left in between, the Palestinians can have.

We can play ball with the Palestinians, or we can go on playing with ourselves

Now this is an arrangement that just about all Israelis could support. It's basically what Netanyahu has in mind, and Barak as well. Why can't they get together? There would be no more of this shrieking and tearing of the hair that we saw when the Rabin-Peres government seemed prepared to give up nearly everything going back to the 1967 border.

The obvious criticism of the plan, though, is that the Palestinians wouldn't accept it. It gives them a "Swiss cheese country," a collection of canyons cut off from one another, nothing that could be called a viable state. It leaves them with settlers looking down at them from everywhere. It doesn't give them the tiniest foothold in Jerusalem, either. This isn't even close to what they have in mind.

But, say the adherents of Peace Among Ourselves, why are we always worrying about what the Palestinians will or won't accept, instead of worrying about what's acceptable to us? If we try to satisfy the Palestinians, we'll eat ourselves alive, like we did under Rabin and Peres. Like we're still doing.

Why don't we finally stop fighting each other and stand together against the common enemy? If there's one thing we know from our history, it's that when we are united we cannot lose, and when we are divided we can only lose.

And here is where the Peace Among Ourselves movement gets it wrong. Here is where they conveniently blot history out of their minds.

FOR a quarter-century after the Six Day War, Israelis were united against the Palestinians. We stood together as one, with marginal exceptions on the Left, against talking to the PLO. We even had the US behind us on that, all the way up until the tail-end of the Reagan Administration. We stood foursquare, even fivesquare against a Palestinian state.

What the hell good did it do us? Did the PLO go away? Did the Palestinians stop demanding statehood or a piece of Jerusalem? No, they're still here.

So what's the answer? Ask the folks at Peace Among Ourselves. Do we have to give the Palestinians everything they want? It'll never end.

No, I don't think we have to give them everything they want. But we do have to make them a ball-park offer, something they can live with, or they will turn us down no matter how broad a coalition, no matter how staunch and firm and joined at the shoulder we may be. The slogan should go something like this: We can play ball with the Palestinians, or we can go on playing with ourselves.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

سكنا من الاصل

Pipe dreams
LARRY DERFNER

Weekender

Monkey business

By AMY KLEIN

Though Eilat - with its overcrowded marinas, beaches and boardwalks - has turned cheesy in recent years, it still has a lot going for it. For one thing, tourism is still going strong, even during the low season of late November. And to cater to visitors there is a plethora of activities to fill the sparkling, sunny days.

But at night, there is a more limited selection. The best bet, after a romantic evening stroll down the streetware-crowded North Beach boardwalk, is Three Monkeys Pub. Part of the Royal Beach Hotel, just past the boardwalk bridge, this large pub/club starts spilling out onto the boardwalk shortly after midnight.

The show starts at 11 p.m., 11:30 on Fridays, and there's no cover charge. You have to get there early; the place opens at 9 p.m.

What makes Three Monkeys Pub so popular are the bands. Imported from Europe and especially England, they are the "best" of the bar-scene bands, selected by the Three Monkeys' "talent scouts" around the world.

Every three weeks a new band takes the stage, doing covers of pop, rock, Motown, Sixties and Eighties music. Some do more than covers, like last year's Flying Embers, who, dressed, looked and sounded so much like Queen that it was

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as if they raised Freddy Mercury from his grave; others do combinations, changing their sound a little bit every night, or the styles of music between the three half-hour sets.

This month's band, Bernadette Wilde from Newcastle, is a six-person band with a leggy, throaty lead singer that does lounge-style versions of both Motown and pop numbers.

The show goes till about 2:30 or 3 a.m., and the crowd changes between sets, so there may be hope for you to get in if you come real late. This rowdy, raucous room - which seats 250 and holds up to 350, standing - is just what people coming to Eilat are looking for: a place to wind down, scream and shout to the music, and for the daring, hit the dance floor in the center.

Except for the foreign beers, the food (kosher) and drinks are reasonably priced for Eilat. The crowd is eclectic - the nationality depends on the season; right now there are a lot of British and German visitors. There is also a fair share of locals. (It was here that we spotted the newest bizarre Israeli trend: guys wearing headbands. Not soft sweatbands, but the hard, puffy ones that little girls wear to hold their hair back. Go figure.)

Three Monkeys Pub Manager, Eli Saamani, summed up why the place is always overflowing: "Havilah," he said. It's an acronym that translates as "it's a waste of time." But in the latest Israeli opposite-slang this means it's anything but.

Three Monkeys Pub, The Royal Beach Hotel North Beach, Boardwalk, Eilat (07) 636-8888

CDs on my mind

Actress Orna Porat talks about her favorite discs

Orna Porat, one of the great figures in Israeli theater, was this year nominated for best supporting actress in Yossi Soffer's film, *The Dybbuk of the Holy Apple Fields*. Her colorful of prizes includes the Israel Prize, the Israel Theater Life Achievement Award and an honorary doctorate from the Weizmann Institute of Science.

She's currently playing in *Most Cruel the King* at Habimah and next month starts rehearsals for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at the Beersheba Theater. And she's nominally retired, following a more than 40-year career at the Cameri Theater, which she joined following her immigration from her native Germany in 1947. She also founded the Children and Youth Theater which was named for her two years ago when CYT celebrated its 30th anniversary. Porat has two adopted children, Lital and Yoram. A year ago she lost her husband, Yosef, after 50 years of marriage.

"When I listen to this music, it brings me to a state of inner concentration, of tranquility. I can shut out external distractions and unpleasantness. Heaven knows we have enough of those."



- 1. The Messiah - Handel**
"I think it's connected to my children. I wanted children and I couldn't have any, so the chorus 'Unto us a child is born' is especially poignant. I adopted Yoram first, then Lital. No," she says with a laugh, "the chorus didn't run through my mind when I first hugged Yoram. Maybe if I were making a movie, I'd use it."
- 2. Thomas Mann reading from his own works in German**
"It's an essay on the transcendence of things, and of the necessity to be grateful for endings in everything. I love this because I so identify with what Mann says. It allows me to greet every day anew, yet gives me the strength to deal with endings, like Yosef's death."
- 3. The Goldberg Variations - J.S. Bach** played by Glenn Gould
- 4. Winterreise ("Winter Journey")**, a Schubert song cycle sung by baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau.
"Of course Fischer-Dieskau. I love winter. I love its crispness and its colors. For the past 10 years, I've spent part of it in the same room of the same hotel in the village of Sernsee (near Klosters). I go for long walks in the mountains. I often take scripts with me, to learn my lines in that peace. I love the sorrows of winter too. I like to cry in the snow."
- 5. The Christmas Oratorio** by J.S. Bach.
Orna Porat grew up in Cologne, and the oratorio "reminds me of my childhood even though it's beautiful in its own right. Whoever has heard it sung in the Cologne Cathedral knows how beautiful it can be. Christmas was something we could share with the Catholics, and so, although I was raised as a Protestant, we went to the cathedral for services."
- Helen Kaye

body depicts humanity like 'One Night Stand' director Mike Figgis

By TED ANTHONY

Mike Figgis is a master filmmaker. *Leaving Las Vegas*, his haunting portrait of alcoholism, prostitution and desperate romance, peeled back the layers of life's seamy side for a movie so painful it was almost unwatchable.

His latest offering, *One Night Stand*, which opened in Israeli cinemas this week, focuses on regular, upper-middle-class people, the kind anyone could meet. But its theme - the mischosen path, the life unraveled - is identical.

It matches the mastery of *Leaving Las Vegas* in both character and story, and is just as harrowing - which makes it all the more sad that the end is so utterly disappointing.

Figgis wrote, directed, co-produced and scored *One Night Stand* and even pulled a Hitchcockian trick. He wanted it, he said, to form three acts - bittersweet affair, breakdown of a marriage and tale of the characters' ultimate paths. In these he succeeds mightily.

Max Carlyle (Wesley Snipes) directs commercials. He lives in Los Angeles with a drop-dead gorgeous and intelligent wife Mimi (Nastassja Kinski) and two young children. He visits New York on business and to see his old friend Charlie (Robert Downey Jr.), who is dying of AIDS.

Blocked from the airport by a series of only-in-New-York obstacles, Max ends up befriending Karen (Nastassja Kinski), also married and in New York on business. After a parking-lot mugging, their vulnerability bubbles over into hotel-room passion.

Max returns to Los Angeles and his family, but things are different. His outlook on life has changed. He is combative and remote toward Mimi and increasingly sarcastic at work, prompting a potentially lucrative client to walk out.

As Charlie nears death, Max and Mimi return to New York to his bedside, and Max finds that Charlie's brother Vernon (Kyle MacLachlan) is married to Karen. This Max and Karen are forced to face their passion in the darkest of circumstances as Charlie wastes away.

Figgis stands above almost every 1990s filmmaker in his ability to re-create pure humanity - his gestures, our conversations, our interactions. Nowhere else on the American screen do relationships seem so real, so visceral. A sneeze, a God-bless-you, the way Max accidentally hits Max with his arm as they cuddle in bed - all of these little mannerisms, captured, form a believable pastiche of what it is to be human.

The use of music in *One Night Stand* is also memorable - not only for the score itself but how it functions. Figgis uses it to drown out dialogue so facial expressions and body movements are emphasized. Even his dialogue is sometimes used as a mask - small talk that deliberately bores you into watching rather than listening. Snipes shows a depth here beyond his previous work, and though he is the focus of the film, he knows when to pull back and



Karen (Nastassja Kinski) and Max (Wesley Snipes) are forced to face their passion in the darkest of circumstances.

One-man stand

let the other characters take center stage.

Kinski is simultaneously mature and unsettlingly girlish, but it's not her ripe-young-things girlishness of yore. She reaches farther back, blending childlike vulnerability with a distinctly adult mien.

Ming-na Wen, one of the most beautiful actresses in the business today, proves here she can hold her own with the most talented. Her portrayal of Mimi is perhaps the most human of them all -

simultaneously fiery and vulnerable, relevant and irrelevant, trying to participate in her marriage but ultimately reduced to watching it crumble.

And MacLachlan emerges once and for all from the shadow of David Lynch, lending a sense of controlled futility and melancholy to Vernon.

Downey, of course, is a talented actor and always has been. He imbues Charlie with an emotional memory of pain and makes him a

virtual Greek chorus for Max. And AIDS is the constant backdrop, the reminder of mortality - not death, but mortality.

Toward the end, the couples dine together and Vernon waxes about his brother's demise. "You don't watch someone playing in the middle of a minefield and not expect to hear an explosion," he says. The message rings clear: The comment perfectly fits Max and Karen.

Figgis and his troupe have much of which to be proud. His world is

like ours: Passion bubbles over. Compromises are made. Events can happen that elevate you and bring you down at the same time. Places within people are awakened that they never knew existed. And things fall apart.

One Night Stand, a landmark depiction of modern infidelity, possesses the moral relativism that *Fatal Attraction* lacked. Were it not for the trite ending, it could have been one of the year's best pictures. (Associated Press)

Hot tip

By KAREN SULKOS

Tel Aviv Area

Be a chocoholic, or just look like one by heading over to the Chocolate Festival at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art today and tomorrow. Warning: Bring your own napkins. It's a jungle over there.

After you've pigged out, you can wipe off your face and go into the museum to enjoy countertenor Derek Lee Ragin and the Israel Camerata Jerusalem in musical selections by Shostakovich, Vivaldi, Pergolesi and Stravinsky. William Henry Curry conducts.

Tomorrow at 2 p.m., with a pre-concert lecture by Michael Melzer at 1 p.m. Program repeats Saturday night at 8:30, with lecture at 7:30. Call (03) 696-1267.

The "Unforgettable" music of Natalie and Nat King Cole highlights tonight's jazz program at the Zahala Apropos. Music starts at 10. 1 Avner Zahala. Call (03) 648-7098.

The BatSheva Dance Company premieres *Sabotage Baby*, choreographed by Ohad Naharin. Tonight at 8:30 in the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts.

Will the stars of the Israeli stage production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* rival Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton? You can see for yourself tonight at 8:30 at the ZOA House.

Shlomit Dvir and her guitar share some *Musical Stories* with young people aged 3-5. Today at 5 p.m. at Beit Aniela, in the Tel Aviv Library.

Jerusalem

The Jerusalem branch of AACI follows the time-worn tradition of

holding its Thanksgiving dinner in the afternoon. Those with reservations can partake at 5 p.m. 6 Mane Street. Call (02) 561-9252.

Hadassah's Merkaz Hamagshimim is hosting a more laid-back, bargain-priced feast for folks between 19 and 35. It's billed as a Jewish Thanksgiving dinner. Tonight at 7 at 7a Dor V'Dorshav in the German Colony. Call (02) 561-9233.

Internationally acclaimed actor Klaus Maria Brandauer narrates Schoenberg's *A Survivor from Warsaw*, as Kurt Masur conducts the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Soprano Kelley Nassief and the Slovak Philharmonic Choir join in. Tonight at 8:30 at Binycnei Ha'uma. Call (02) 624-0896.

The Lev Smadar theater presents a lazy Friday afternoon jazz concert, tomorrow from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Call (02) 561-8168.

Returned prodigal son Matti Caspi performs tonight at 10 at the Jerusalem Theater, 20 Marcus Street. Call (02) 561-7167.

Conductor Moshe Epstein leads the Rubia Academy Chamber

Orchestra in works by Vivaldi, Rossini and Britten. Tonight at 8:30 at the Wise Auditorium, Givat Ram Campus, Hebrew University. Call (02) 675-9911.

The relatives in the play *Friends* take an unusual tack in dealing with a son who's decided to strike out on his own. They move in with him. Curtain tonight at the Nissan Nativ Acting Studio, 4 Yad Harutzim, in Talpiot.

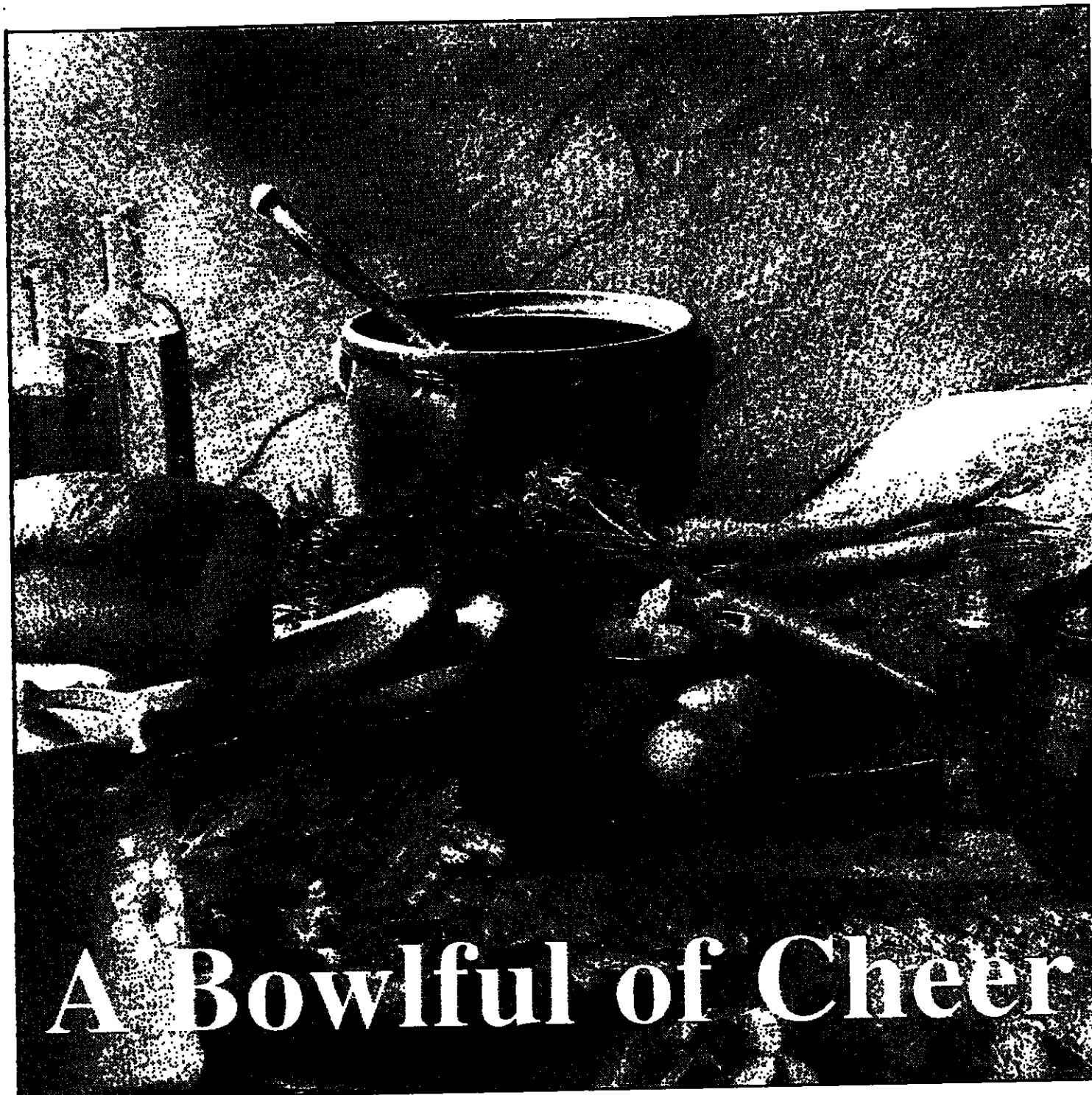
The Jerusalem Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is holding its annual general meeting tonight followed by an authentic Indian vegetarian buffet dinner. (The meal is NIS 50, a portion of which will be donated to the JSPCA.) Guest speaker, in Hebrew, is Kol Ha'ir's "zoo-watcher" Tomer Pratt. AGM at 6:30 p.m. The Seventh Place, Beit Agron, 37 Hillel Street. (02) 566-9232 or 052-592095.

Other Locales

The wise and wonderful Professor Alice Shalvi gives a timely lecture on "Women in

Television

The Movie Channel is running the oddly comic *The Madness of King George* on Saturday night at 9:30. In addition to wonderful performances by Helen Mirren and Nigel Hawthorne, famously vain hunk-of-the-moment (again) Rupert Everett actually lets himself appear ugly and puffy in the film. Now *that's* acting!



A Bowlful of Cheer

I feel a sense of culinary *deja vu*. In the innocent days when I first started to cook, I would throw lots of ingredients into a big pot, add some garlic and whatever seasonal vegetables my mother grew, and cover the entire mishmash with water. Then I would lower the heat to a simmer and walk away, hoping for the best when I returned in an hour. Now, 25 years later, I'm doing it again — only this time I feel I'm doing it with finesse, knowledge, and a purpose.

After all, there are many reasons why peasant-style soups are becoming more popular. The marriage of fresh ingredients simmering with one another comforts taste buds and warms souls. None of the valuable vitamins and minerals are discarded. And there's the convenience: It's simple to throw ingredients into a pan to simmer almost unattended while you spend more time with your children, wrap presents, or sample a new Chardonnay. I get a sense of closeness to my family and friends when I place a big bowl of soup on my table. And it gets even better when I accompany it with a loaf of crusty bread and a giant salad. Here are two distinct soup styles — one that's thick and hearty, and another that's a broth full of vegetables.

TORTELLINI, WHITE BEAN, AND SPINACH SOUP

- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups coarsely chopped spinach
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 (450 gr.) can navy beans, drained
- 2 cups fresh vegetablebroth, or 1 (400 gr.) can vegetable broth
- 1 (400 gr.) can no-salt-added whole tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 1 (400 gr.) can quartered artichoke hearts, drained
- 1 (250 gr.) package uncooked fresh cheese tortellini

- 1/4 cup grated fresh Parmesan cheese

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add chopped onion, bell pepper, seasoning, and garlic. Sauté 5 minutes or until tender. Add spinach and next 5 ingredients (spinach through artichokes). Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 2 minutes. Add tortellini and cook until thoroughly heated. Sprinkle with cheese.

Yield: 6 servings (serving size: 1 1/2 cups soup and 2 teaspoons cheese, 281 calories).

MEXICAN BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

Try serving this zesty soup with *quesadillas*.

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 2 cups cubed, peeled butternut squash
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup sliced, seeded, poblano chile or 1 (125 gr.) can chopped green chiles
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 4 cups fresh vegetablebroth or water
- 1 (435 gr.) can white hominy or whole-kernel corn, drained
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh cilantro

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add squash and next 6 ingredients (squash through chili powder). Sauté 3 minutes. Add broth and hominy. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Stir in lime juice and cilantro.

Yield: 4 servings (serving size: 3/4 cups, 161 calories).

CREAMY LIMA BEAN SOUP WITH PASTA

Any smaller-type pasta such as *ditalini* will work in this soup.

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrot

- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups water
- 3 thyme sprigs
- 4 cups fresh vegetable broth, or 2 (400 gr.) cans vegetable broth
- 1 (450 gr.) package frozen baby lima beans
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon pepper
- 1 cup uncooked orzo (like "little ears" pasta)
- 1/2 cup chopped, bottled, roasted red bell peppers

Heat olive oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion, carrot, and garlic; sauté 5 minutes. Add water, thyme, broth, and lima beans; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 15 minutes. Stir in basil, lemon juice, and lemon pepper. Place 3 cups soup in a blender; process until smooth. Return pureed mixture to pan; bring to a boil. Add pasta; cook 15 minutes or until pasta is tender. Stir in bell peppers. Yield: 4 servings (serving size: 2 cups, 316 calories).

LENTIL SOUP

- 7 1/2 cups fresh vegetable broth or water
- 1 1/2 cups dried lentils
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrot
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 2 Tbsp. low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Combine broth and dried lentils in a large Dutch oven, and bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer 30 minutes. Add chopped onion and next 6 ingredients (onion through salt); cover and simmer 15 minutes. Yield: 6 servings (serving size: 1 1/4 cups, 197 calories).

COUNTRY-FRENCH VEGETABLE SOUP

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 2 cups chopped green cabbage
- 1 cup chopped onion

- 1 cup (1/2-inch-thick) sliced carrot
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1 cup diced red potato
- 1 teaspoon caraway seeds
- 1 cup water
- 4 cups fresh vegetablebroth or 2 (400 gr.) cans vegetable broth
- 1 cup drained canned chickpeas
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley
- 2 tsp. chopped fresh or 1/2 teaspoon dried dill
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high heat until hot. Add cabbage and next 5 ingredients (cabbage through caraway seeds); sauté 2 minutes. Add water and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer 30 minutes. Add chickpeas, parsley, dill, and pepper; cook until thoroughly heated. Yield: 4 servings (serving size: 1 1/4 cups, 184 calories).

BASQUE RICE-AND-KALE CHOWDER

- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 1 Tbsp. Hungarian sweet paprika
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 cups water
- 1 (400 gr.) can stewed tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 2 cups fresh vegetablebroth or 1 (400 gr.) can vegetable broth
- 2 cups chopped kale
- 1 cup cooked long-grain brown rice
- 1/2 cup drained canned chickpeas
- 1/2 cup raisins

1. Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add onion and next 5 ingredients (onion through bay leaves); sauté 2 minutes. Add water, tomatoes, and broth; bring to a boil. Add kale, rice, chickpeas, and raisins; reduce heat, and simmer 10 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Yield: 4 servings (serving size: 1 1/4 cups, 311 calories).

(Creators Syndicate Inc.)

Weekend Food & Drink



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Mr. Brown's... Iced Coffee

Mr. Brown's Iced Coffee tastes exactly like the kind of thing you'd have at a roadside rest stop somewhere between Waco, Texas, and Dallas. It isn't bad and has no preservatives or food colorings. It's just somebody else's interpretation of your personal blend of instant coffee, milk and sugar. But when it comes down to it, when you're deciding what to drink, do you really want coffee that was prepared and canned months ago? Imported by Vita, Mr. Brown's Iced Coffee is a dairy product sold in 250-ml. cans for NIS 3.90.

Fancy water (excellent)

Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman drink it. Sally Fields and Demi Moore adore it. Even Bill Clinton drinks it. San Pellegrino is the mineral water of the world. Imported from Italy by Segal Wines, San Pellegrino waters are taken from a source in the Italian Alps in contact with volcanic rocks and dolomite cliffs. Operating since 1898, the Italian firm markets all around the world, but especially to New York and Hollywood, Germany, Switzerland and France. Less fizzy than Perrier, it really does taste good! 250-ml. bottles sell for NIS 3.50 in

Phyllis's Tips

stores, NIS 7 to NIS 9 in restaurants. 750-ml. bottles are NIS 6 in stores, NIS 16 to NIS 19 in restaurants.

No lox, no thanks (avoid)
For those who love smoked salmon, there's nothing like the real thing, served up on a good bagel and cream cheese. A real New York girl, I've never been particularly fond of salmon salads, especially not if they're made with faux salmon (the package calls it marluzza), mixed with pickles, two types of artificial food coloring, unknown emulsifiers, sodium benzoate and potassium sorbate. The little artificially colored pieces are such a bright shade of red you wonder if the person who invented it was color blind.

Hot cider (very good)
Years ago people used to laugh when I served my Israeli interpretation of hot cider, New England style. Now it seems the mainstream is adopting it. Restaurants and kiosk owners now can invest in Cider Hagalil's new drink machine which dispenses 250-ml. and 330-ml. cups of hot cider for NIS 4 and NIS 6 a cup, depending on size.

By the way, you can make hot cider at home with a can of Cider Hagalil's concentrated juice. Reconstitute it with a little less water than the package directs and add a piece of cinnamon stick, a few whole cloves and a couple whole allspice. Heat to boiling then turn down to a simmer. Cook at least 10-15 minutes before serving. The results are

delightful — just remember to remove the spices after about 30 minutes or the cider will become bitter.

Salsa (good)

Although Mexican food is not high on Israelis' popularity list, several domestic companies, like Beit Hashita and Osem, are producing a version of salsa — the Spanish word for sauce — the American term for many sauce-like condiments. It's difficult to know what kind of flavorings and vegetable stabilizers the Osem version (called Arimos) contains because, as usual, the company uses only the vaguest possible terms to describe them.

The Beit Hashita version contains nothing artificial, but its tastes are imbalanced. I vote for the President's Choice salsa, which costs NIS 7.95, since it not only tastes good, but also contains nothing artificial.

And you don't need tortillas to enjoy salsa. You can use it to season soups, serve as a dip alongside of guacamole and corn chips, top a hamburger, serve with scrambled eggs or fill an omelette, among other things.

Italian spice (fair to good)

McCormick's new Italian Seasoning contains all the classic Italian spices — marjoram, thyme, rosemary, sage, oregano and basil — mixed together. We tried it in a cream sauce on pasta and found the taste too dominating. It could be good sprinkled sparingly on pizza or in a tomato-based pasta sauce. I'm not crazy about marjoram which, along with thyme and rosemary, strongly flavors this mix. I prefer to mix my own combinations according to dish. The 21 gr. plastic bottle sells for NIS 12.95.

Where can I buy cans of condensed clear chicken soup to use in recipes? I only have been able to find the powdered soup mixes. Are there any cooking classes in Jerusalem?
— Mrs. F. Rosenthal, Jerusalem

Kiryat Motzkin
Shulamith Kretzman's telephone number is (04) 871-1942. Her E-mail address is rubynsue@netvision.net.il

Israelis are not used to using condensed clear chicken soup so manufacturers do not produce it. If you want an alternative to soup powders containing MSG, you can try the vegetable cubes available in health-food stores.
I don't have any information about cooking lessons in Jerusalem.

Where can I get five-spice seasoning? Is there a kosher brand available?
— Helen Livnat, Herzliya

The Chinese mixture of spices called "five-spice seasoning" is generally available in spice stores and stores selling Far Eastern products. A widely distributed and kosher version is made by Spices by Elana and marketed by Segal Wines.

Could you pass on my name and number so readers can start an English-speaking group for sharing vegetarian recipes?
— Shulamith Kretzman.

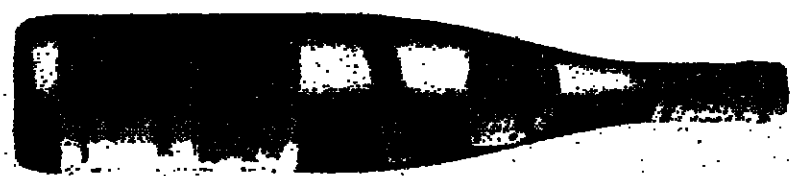
I am writing to inform you about the (English-speaking) chapter of the International Jewish Vegetarian Society. It is located on 8 Balfour Street in Rehavia, Jerusalem. (Telephone and fax, (02) 561-1114; E-mail, ijvsjlem@netmedia.net.il) IJVS offers monthly programs on various aspects of vegetarianism and maintains a library which contains recipes and nutritional information. Anyone is welcome to make an appointment to check out the holdings of the library.
— Aden Bar Tura, assistant director of the International Jewish Vegetarian Society

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted c/o The Jerusalem Post Magazine, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem, 91000, or by E-mail: Phyllisfood@jpost.co.il

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes, as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Friday.

Wine Cellar

By NOGA TARNOPOLSKY



Argentina's young wineries target Israeli market

Argentina is to begin exporting its wines to Israel in the next few weeks. Argentina has a long tradition of wine making; it began a century ago with the arrival of French, Spanish and Italian immigrants who found perfect wine-growing conditions in the mountainous provinces of Salta and Mendoza.

And, perhaps due to the influence of these immigrants, Argentinians developed a love for wine. Even today, the average Argentine household consumes approximately two bottles of wine per day. Buenos Aires's 13 million inhabitants alone provide a huge market for local wine producers.

Like in France, local wines are sold at what seems to be the average Israeli laughably low prices. An "expensive" decent varietal is sold in the capital's wine shops for \$10. An eminently drinkable table wine of a lesser category will go for \$3.

Argentine wine makers have an unfortunate reputation for producing heavy, sluggish wines that are not of much use or pleasure and do not satisfy European or American tastes. Traditional Argentine wines, often made in

relatively unhygienic conditions in massive, hundred-year-old barrels, are basically what the French region of Burgundy was producing some 200 years ago. However, the recent importation of foreign — mostly European — wines and a new influx of cosmopolitan immigrants is changing the *gancho* palate in favor of lighter, fruitier and more complex wines.

Some of the young wineries producing top-of-the-line wines today are owned and run by a new generation of French immigrants who are highly attuned to international tastes. Over the past six years, they have been using the latest techniques and equipment to produce appealing wines.

In addition, competition is forcing the Argentine economy, which until a decade ago was almost hermetically sealed, to open up to the world market, and Israel is one of its tar-

gets. A number of Argentine cabernets will be arriving here soon, along with various syrahs, malbecs and non-varietal reds.

The malbecs are the most interesting of the bunch. Malbec suffers from one of the worst reputations a grape could possibly have, that of being both heavy and lacking in flavor. In Bordeaux, it is used almost exclusively for mixing. Argentine wine makers claim Mendoza has the perfect climatic conditions for elevating malbec to a truly fine wine. My recent tour of a number of wineries confirms that. Like Australian syrah, it is not a wine to be dismissed.

I especially recommend trying the wines of Norton, Fabre & Montmayou, Nieto & Senetiner, Chandon (the Latin American branch) and Luigi Bosca wineries, all of which will be available here shortly.

مكتبة القدس

rink



's Tips



Weekender Travel

the darkness outside the cave mouth? When did the human being become, as the anthropologist/poet Loren Eiseley put it, "a dream animal - living at least partially within a secret universe of his own creation and sharing that secret universe in his head with other, similar heads...?"

Whenever those changes did come, and whatever they entailed within the explosive growth of the oxygen-guzzling human brain, they developed in microcosm in these caves. In fact, the entire evolution of man is, in a sense, contained within these caves. For, amazingly, the Carmel Caves cover the longest stretch of paleontological and archaeological finds ever discovered in one spot, dating from over 200,000 years ago to 12,000 years ago.

Paleontological sites around the world reveal various stages and branches in the development of the bipeds who became humans. But in these caves, they are all piled on top of each other.

A clearly marked route, punctuated by explanatory signs and diagrams, brings the visitor to the three caves accessible in the reserve (Hebrew- and English-speaking reserve guides are also available for groups and individuals). In the first, the Tanur cave, the strata bear witness to 150,000 years in the life of early humanity, divided into three successive, distinct cultures, which are defined largely by the development of tools. All the efforts at survival - the pushing of the restless, developing brain, the inventions and innovations that crept and occasionally leaped forward - are compacted within these layers of crude and finely honed tools.

But the human drama of prehistory did not unfold in neat little categories of time, culture or biology. Witness another unusual feature of this reserve: These caves

seem to be the only spot of habitation where both the Neanderthal branch of hominids and the Cro-Magnon branch, from which we descend, lived in contemporary periods.

Evidence of the dense-boned, heavy-browed Neanderthals includes not only tools but bones, and one full female skeleton. Based on the structure of that skull, in fact, some scholars hypothesize that the Neanderthals were capable of some speech. Here they wandered for some 60,000 years, living in groups of 25-50 people, cooperatively hunting and entrapping animals.

The brains that carved human heads in stone and deer heads in bone (the oldest art objects found in Israel), which organized the first cemeteries and ritual burials in Israel, were identical to those brains now cruising cyberspace. They pondered the mystery of their existence and selves. "Mah had escaped out of the eternal present of the animal world," as Eiseley put it, "into a knowledge of past and future. The unseen gods, the powers behind the world of phenomenal appearance, began to stalk through his dreams."

What really lives in these caves, between the shards, terraces and bone fragments? The questions concerning meaning for endless generations - each like a single drop of water - which have carved and contained within them a history of struggle, dreaming, hoping, conquest; of butchery, family loss, starvation; of innovation and invention; of wonder and fear; experiment and failure; childhood death and pain-laced age; of superstition and greed; communication and poetry; love, lust and the ever-looming presence of death.

Thus the very location, here in Israel, of this microcosm of the totality of human prehistory adds to its uniqueness. For in this splinter of the world, the human mind and soul reached beyond themselves for a sense of meaning and unity in creation. Here, law tried to infuse a sense of morality and divinity, and eloquent psalmists compared human life to transient grass.

Yes, these caves embrace the journey of humanity. But my puny human mind, sitting in that dark cave, cannot absorb it all. It throbs and goes blank. Nevertheless, wonder and questions permeate every centimeter of these caves, like dormant desert seeds. With my next visit, perhaps, more of them will spring to life.

The Carmel Caves cover the longest stretch of paleontological and archaeological finds ever discovered in one spot, dating from over 200,000 years ago to 12,000 years ago

Primordial shadows in the caves of Carmel

Close Encounters
By Allan Rabinowitz

I visited the Nahal Me'arot Reserve, the prehistoric site south of Haifa, with a group of tour guides. Three of the caves (also known as The Carmel Caves) that pockmark the cliffs are accessible to the public. In the longest cave, penetrating 70 meters into the cliffside, we watched a film depicting the life of the early humans who lived

here. The actors chipped tools, cleaned skins, hunted deer, fanned a precious flame, and died, leaving a vivid impression of the thousands of generations who lived short, stark lives here.

But when it ended, and the jabbering guides left, I remained behind and sat against the cave wall in the darkness. Light filtered weakly from the cave entrance. In

darkness and silence I could more acutely feel the presence of these cave dwellers.

My mind held only questions and wonderings. On this cave floor, creatures dating back to the time of the first migrations from Africa huddled for shelter. Their descendants uttered guttural sounds. Other descendants gazed with restless eyes and minds into

nocturnal fires. Others smashed animal bones with stone tools, while still others skinned antelope hides with even sharper implements, shaped by other tools.

But when, during endless millennia dedicated to the acquisition of food and warmth, did these proto-humans begin to wonder about who they were? When did they begin to ponder the powers of

methodically inventing and shaping tools.

Here, perhaps, they gazed at the Cro-Magnons, across a gap of physicality, consciousness, technological progress and depth of mind which could not be spanned. One moved on to begin civilization, art, science, to penetrate as deeply as human thought can, while the other disappeared.

The Homo sapiens, meanwhile, emerged as the modern human and lived here as hunter-gatherers, until about 20,000 years ago. Then there is a gap of 8,000 years. During the next period of habitation, the Natufian period, which began about 12,000 years ago and lasted 2,000 years, inhabitants created larger, permanent settlements, built terraces, began the domestication of animals.

Zichron Ya'acov: Take a walk on the Wine Route

Day Tripper By Haim Shapiro

Zichron Ya'acov used to be the kind of place where teachers took school groups; now quaint shops and a moderate but charming nightlife are attracting visitors to this sleepy town.

Founded in 1882 by settlers from Romania, Zichron has plenty of historical landmarks, especially from the period when Baron Edmund de Rothschild took it under his wing and began pouring money into it. There are a number of wine cellars in the town and the surrounding area, and they, too, deserve a visit.

But let's face it. It is a lot more pleasant to go somewhere

because it has interesting shops, pleasant cafes and good restaurants. All that has come to the town in the last few years.

On Thursday nights young people pour into the downtown area, to the pubs and wine bars.

The historic sites are still a draw. Most of them are along the town's main street, Rehov Hameyasdim ("Founders' Street"), which has been redubbed Derech Hayayin, "the Wine Route." It is not much of a wine route compared to those in France and Germany, or even California and South Africa, but at least the wine is much better

than it used to be.

The street itself has been repaved with stones, and traffic has been restricted, making it far more pleasant for pedestrians. Many of the old homes have been restored and even those that remain dilapidated seem to have become more interesting-looking as a result of the urban renewal.

For the history buffs, there is of course Beit Aharanson, the home of Aaron Aharanson, founder of the Nili spy group which operated against the Turks during World War I. There are documents relating to Aharanson, and his sister, Sara, who shot herself

after having been arrested and tortured by the Turkish forces.

My own favorite structure on the street is Breichat Binyamin, the old water tower with a neo-gothic facade that makes it appear to be an ancient synagogue. If you look closely, you can just make out the water spout, where a fountain once gushed forth from the central arch, providing a constant supply of water to the residents of the area. On the side is a stairway that you can climb to get a panoramic view of the area.

In comparison with the water tower, which looks like a syna-

gogue, the actual old synagogue of the town, Ohel Ya'acov, which is just down the street and around the corner, seems rather modest. Built in the style of the German Templars - Protestant settlers who also came to the Holy Land - it is

said to be the finest of the synagogues in any of Baron de Rothschild's settlements, but today it just seems to be old-fashioned.

A casual tour of the historic sites of Zichron might take a half hour, an hour if you are really

interested, but you could spend an entire afternoon whiling away your time, investigating the artisanship in the shops and gossiping over a cup of coffee along what has become one of the country's most attractive main streets.



Built in the style of the German Templars, Ohel Ya'acov was said to be the finest synagogue in any of de Baron Rothschild's settlements. Today it just seems old-fashioned. (Israel Talby)

book department

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Weekender Leisure



The real world

Models of all shapes, sizes and ages prance the catwalk for a fashion show benefitting female victims of abuse

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

When creating for a mass market or even for a boutique market, designers are working in a vacuum. They may have definite ideas about silhouettes, fabrics, textures and colors, but they don't know who's going to buy them and wear them. What they do know - at least in an abstract sense - is that most of the women sporting their label won't bear the slightest resemblance to the models in their catalog.

When Hagar Allembeck, the name behind the Hagara label, put together her current fall/winter collection, she had a completely different experience. For the showing, on behalf of the Center to Aid Female Victims of Sexual Abuse, Allembeck eschewed professional models and instead selected some 80 well-known women of varying ages, shapes and sizes to parade her clothes. Several of the women on the runway were in their 40s and 50s, and some were in their 70s.

So the first message broadcast by Hagara was that contrary to what we have been taught, the world does not necessarily belong to the young, the thin and the beautiful. The second message was even more telling, given the beneficiary of the event. Provocative apparel, though it may get the juices going, is not an invitation to rape or even flirt. What the lady wears is immaterial so long as she herself makes it clear that she's not interested in any sexual liaison.

Though most of the loose, layered, draped and cowl-neck garments, accented mainly in velvets, tended to resemble theatrical period costumes, there were a few low-cut and super-sheer items. The mood, however, was clearly look, but don't touch.

AS UNUSUAL as it was for Hagara to unveil her collection with models who could be anyone's next-door neighbor, it was even more unusual for her to be showing at all. Many of her competitors, defeated by both the weather and the slump in the market, have begun their winter sales more than a month ahead of time.

Let's not kid ourselves: Business in the rag trade is not just bad, but disastrous. People who lost a bundle in the volatile stock market may feel inclined to comfort themselves with a new outfit, but in many cases, thought is not leading to action. Money is tighter and people aren't spending.

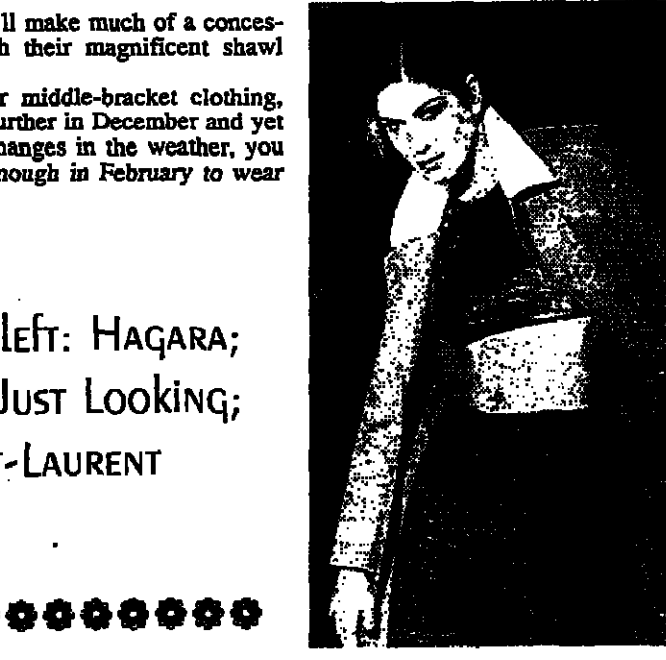
All those delicious pastel angoras and the gorgeous silky and velvety jewel-colored poodle, popcorn, cable and ribbed knits in the upmarket price range will become considerably more affordable over the next few weeks, as will the crushed and embossed velvet separates which have been given so much prominence in fashion publications and window displays.

And those labels in the medium to lower price range, such as Rosh Indiani, Niba, Just Looking, Honigman, Topper and Cafe, will become even more affordable.

Local designers and manufacturers are not the only ones whose prices are plummeting. Even international giants like Yves Saint-Laurent have to give in to the vagaries of public spending, though it's doubtful that he'll make much of a concession on his full-length fur coats with their magnificent shawl collars.

Whether you're buying upmarket or middle-bracket clothing, hold off for a while. Prices will drop further in December and yet again in January. With all the crazy changes in the weather, you might just be lucky and find it cold enough in February to wear your new acquisitions.

Clockwise from top left: HAGARA; YVES SAINT-LAURENT; JUST LOOKING; CAFE; YVES SAINT-LAURENT



Bridg The Israeli Simultaneous

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South dealer
East-West vulnerable

North
♠ QJ109642
♥ 94
♦ Q
♣ Q32

West East
♠ 3 ♠ K5
♥ 2 ♥ J1087653
♦ 87654 ♦ K93
♣ KJ10874 ♣ 5

South (Wertheimer)
♠ A87
♥ AKQ
♦ AJ102
♣ A96

South West North East
2 NT pass 3♥ pass
4♣ pass 4NT pass
5♦ pass 6♠ (all pass)

Opening lead: ♥2

One of my jobs is to write the analysis of a special duplicate game called the Israeli Simultaneous. This event is played around the country on the same night, with the same deals. At the conclusion, the players receive a booklet (in Hebrew) with the deals and suggested bidding and play.

How is this possible, especially considering my terrible Hebrew? Well, it begins in the offices of the Israel Bridge Federation in Haifa. There, the manager of the Israeli Bridge League, Zvi Ben-Tovim, instructs his computer to print out three sets of hand-records (each with 40 deals, randomly dealt). He then mails me the sets and I pick out the most interesting 40 deals from the 120. In the last Simultaneous, on November 15, I decided to choose all 40 deals from a single set because of an interesting complaint that was registered by one of the players. If I selected only interesting deals, the players would have to be on the lookout for an interesting play on every deal. This eliminates to some degree the random element of where the cards lie. So at his suggestion, I used only one set of 40 deals, and no selection was made.

However, it is still a long and tedious process to analyze 40 deals, propose an auction, and then discuss the ramifications and nuances in two short paragraphs for each deal. Finally, after I've

written the booklet in English, I mail my work to Ben-Tovim, who translates it into Hebrew.

After every Simultaneous, I receive phone calls from a few of the participants, either complaining that the deals were too wild ("Blame it on the computer," I answer) or that the bidding was too esoteric ("Blame it on my bridge upbringing") or that a better line of play was found than the one mentioned in the booklet ("Blame it on my faulty analysis").

On today's deal, from the November Simultaneous, the suggested final contract was six spades. In many cases, North was declarer but in the case of Sarah Wertheimer, who played the tournament at the Netanya Bridge Club, South was declarer after North had made a transfer bid to spades. Transfers are common after notrump openings and give declarer a tremendous edge by having the opening lead come up to the strong hand. In the auction shown, South accepted game and North bid Blackwood to check for aces (five diamonds showed 1 or 4). West led the deuce of hearts.

Wertheimer won in hand and led the ace of diamonds and deuce of diamonds to ruff in dummy, noting the fall of the 9 from East. She then took a successful finesse in trumps by leading the queen and letting it ride when East played the 5. A second spade play drew the king. So far, declarer had taken the line-of-play proposed in the booklet. But at this point, I suggested that South lead the jack of diamonds and, when West plays low, discard a club from dummy, hoping that the king is with West.

This is called a "ruffing finesse," which has in theory a 50 percent chance of success. On this deal, East would win the king and declarer takes only 12 tricks, for the contract. But if West held the king of diamonds, this ruffing finesse would produce an over-trick.

Wertheimer found a more interesting (and successful) play. She led the jack of diamonds and ruffed it in dummy, the king falling. Now she had 13 tricks. There were two clues to her play. First, the 9 of diamonds was a suspicious card and, if honest, was likely to be followed by the king. Second, if the king didn't fall, she could cash her hearts and spades and make 13 tricks by squeezing East, if that player held both minor-suit kings.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached at gran@netvision.net.il

Chess When machine beat man

By NIGEL SHORT

One wonders how the experience of losing to Deeper Blue might have affected Garry Kasparov. The World Champion is an extremely tough competitor and doubtless will be determined to assert his authority over his feeble human opponents. Yet one cannot help feeling that his humiliating defeat in the full glare of the world's media is bound, in some way, to have damaged him psychologically.

Some entertaining Kasparov quotes are contained within grandmaster Daniel King's lucidly written account of the match (Kasparov v Deeper Blue, Batsford), for example:

"If a computer can beat the World Champion, a computer can read the best books in the world, can write the best plays and can know everything about history and literature and people."

If Garry actually believed such rubbish, it is no wonder he had difficulty facing the silicon monster. Playing a decent game of chess is nowhere near as important a human accomplishment as my esteemed colleague claims. In fact, since Kasparov is an intelligent sort of chap, I suspect he knows this, but may just have forgotten it in his eagerness to hype the clash.

It has been widely reported that Garry is prepared to stake his title in a rematch. As the philosophy lecturer and former British Champion, George Botterill, succinctly expressed it many years ago, this makes about as much sense as a weightlifter offering his title to a fork-lift truck - a point to be borne in mind by those who consider chess to have been in some way demeaned by Deeper Blue's victory.

Yes, there are those who consider this match to be the death of chess. I suspect it is only the beginning of the end of the battle 'man versus machine'. At this moment I believe there are still a handful of guys capable of winning such a contest.

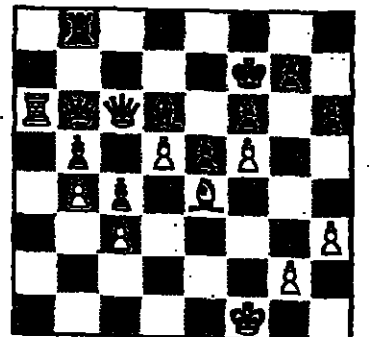
But whether I am right or wrong

in my assumption is hardly relevant; sooner or later a computer will be able to beat anyone. Then these matches will cease to have interest and people will return, as they have for the last 1,500 years, to playing chess against one another.

An important moment in Garry's demise was when he resigned the second game in the following position:

White: Deeper Blue
Black: Kasparov
New York, 1997

Black: (Kasparov) to play



White: (Deeper Blue)

Instead he should have continued with 45... Qe3. Then after the obvious 46... Qxd6 black should respond with 46... Re8! This move is not too hard to see and would be found by any strong player who had not mentally (or actually) resigned. Kasparov would certainly have discovered it when facing an animate opponent. The point is that white's king is too exposed. Black threatens to capture the bishop on e4 after which he can secure a draw. There are a number of winning tries but they all founder on the poor king position. The simplest variation is as follows: 47. Bf3 Qc1+ 48. Kf2 Qd2+ 49. Be2 Qf4+ 50. Kg1 Qe3+ 51. Kh1 Qc1+ 52. Kh2 Qf4+ with a perpetual check.

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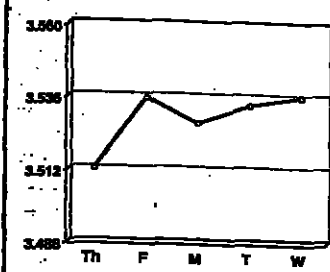
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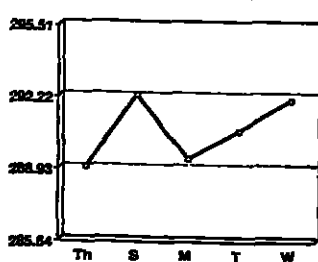
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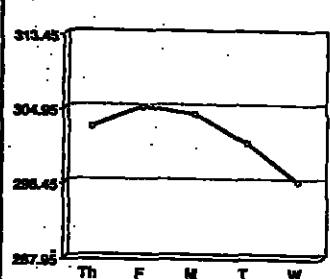
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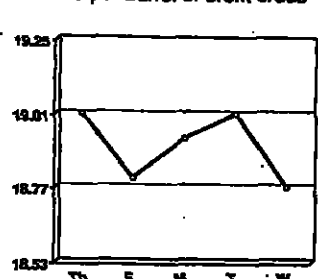
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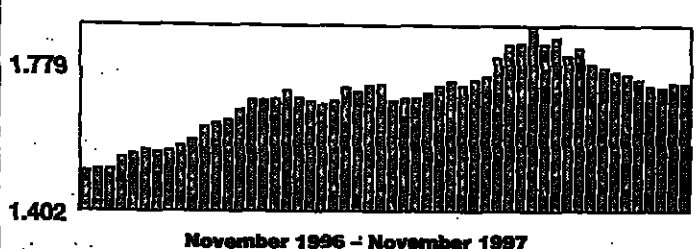
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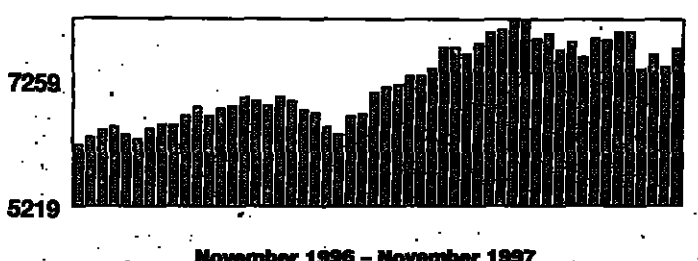
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LANNET separates from Madge

Madge Networks N.V. announced yesterday that its Ethernet products division, the Tel Aviv-based LANNET, has been restructured as an autonomous subsidiary. The new company will be known as LANNET, the name used by the Ethernet division before its acquisition by Madge Networks in November 1995. LANNET will be organized as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Madge Networks N.V., the parent company that also owns Madge Networks. *David Harris*

ICI to increase investments in Israel

British chemicals company ICI has decided to increase its investments in Israel by tens of millions of dollars, according to company chiefs who met Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday. Sharansky said the company wants to invest in chemicals, pharmaceuticals and medicine, as well as to cooperate with small companies as well as with large ones such as Teva. *Globes*

Israel, EU hope to reach trade compromise

The trade battle between the European Union and Israel that began four years ago with a dispute concerning orange juice could be resolved today, according to Israeli government sources. Talks began yesterday in Brussels, with the Israeli delegation led by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Customs and VAT Director Motti Ayalon. The EU is objecting retroactively to alleged Israeli diluting of domestic orange juice with Brazilian oranges before exporting the produce to Europe and thus breaching the trade agreement between the two parties. Israeli producers strongly deny the claim and have received widespread backing from civil servants and politicians. *David Harris*

Central bank Oct. integrated index falls 0.1%

The Bank of Israel index of integrated economic indicators fell 0.1 percent in October after a 0.2% rise the previous month, according to a statement from the central bank. The major contributors to the October index were: a 2.4% rise in the industrial production index, after a 1.5% decline in September; chain store sales fell some 2% after an 8.4% increase in September; and the imports index dropped 10.5% after a September rise of 8%. *David Harris*

Fiftieth anniversary telecards designed

Designs for five Bezeq telecards have been chosen to mark Israel's 50th anniversary. The five, each dedicated to a single decade, were designed by David Tarkower. The first shows the first premier, David Ben-Gurion at the declaration of statehood; the second Levi Eshkol and the capture of the Western Wall; the third Golda Meir and the Yom Kippur War; the fourth Menachem Begin and the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt; and the fifth Yitzhak Rabin and the peace accord with Jordan. In the background of the cards are illustrations of developments in communications technology for each decade. The designs will be displayed for the first time at the end of December, at a Telecard collectors' convention to be held in Tel Aviv. *Judy Siegel*

Zim receives last of its new ships

Zim Israel Navigation will today receive the last of the eight ships it recently ordered to operate on the company's tricontinent line. Zim China has a capacity of 3,400 containers. Delivery of the new ship is the final stage in the company's strategic investment and logistics process. *David Harris*

Koor reports 22% net increase

IEC 3rd quarter net doubles

The Israel Electric Corp. reported yesterday that third-quarter net profit doubled to NIS 366 million from NIS 179m. in the same period a year ago. In the first nine months of the year, net profit plunged to NIS 250m. from NIS 497m. a year earlier.

In a statement, the power monopoly said that the fall in profits was a result of a second-quarter loss caused by a real term decrease in electricity prices and the sharp rise of the dollar. The company said that this led to higher financing expenses.

The improvement in the third quarter is explained by changes in foreign exchange rates, and a result of cutting costs and lower inflation-adjusted wages.

The company reported a moderate rise in total income from the sale of electricity, which amounted to NIS 2.17 billion against NIS 2.14b. a year ago. In the first nine months, income rose slightly to NIS 5.9b. from NIS 5.7b. for the equivalent period in 1996.

Koor Industries, Israel's largest concern, reported yesterday that third-quarter net income rose 22.1% to \$38.3m. from \$31.3m. last year.

The company said that gains primarily came from increased revenues at its Maktshim-Agan agrochemical subsidiary and the Tadiran telecommunications and electronics unit.

Net income for the three quar-

ters fell to \$130.4m. from \$154m. in the same period of 1996.

For the third quarter sales increased 2.7% to \$868m. compared with \$844.9m. for the same period of 1996. Koor revenues in the first nine months of 1997 were \$2.74b., a 3.1% increase from \$2.65b. last year.

Operating income in the third quarter was \$66.4m. against \$54.9m. last year.

In a statement, Koor's president and chief executive officer Benjamin Gaon said that Koor's total export revenues increased by more than 26% during the last quarter.

"We have increased our concentration on our technology and export-oriented strategy. This approach enables Koor to focus with greater intensity on our globalization efforts," Gaon said.

Meanwhile, Koor also announced yesterday that its board of directors approved an agreement to acquire Claridge Israel Group's stake in ECI Telecom for \$275m. Claridge will receive 12.9% of Koor's shares, which will enable it to raise its stake in the conglomerate to 35.4%.

Migdal Insurance Group, the country's largest insurance company, reported yesterday that third-quarter net profit decreased to NIS 24.4m. from NIS 28.2m. in the

same period last year as a result of a decline in earnings from general insurance.

During the first nine months of the year net profit climbed 34% to NIS 133m. from NIS 88m. a year ago.

In a statement, Migdal's CEO Uzi Levi said that in the third

quarter the company's earnings from the sale of life insurance continued to grow while sales of general insurance suffered from a sharp decrease in prices and an increase in damages from car theft and burglary.

The Migdal Insurance Group consists of five insurance companies: Migdal, Hamagen, Shimshon, Maoz and Sela. It also owns insurance agencies and financial companies.

Leumi Insurance Holdings, Migdal's parent company, reported that third-quarter net profit rose to NIS 23.6m. from NIS 19.8m. In the first nine months of 1997 net profit surged to NIS 132.7m. from NIS 60.5m. in the corresponding period last year. The company attributed the rise to the positive results of the Migdal Group and to the fact that it increased its holding in the company to 100% from 60% a year ago as part of its sale in March to Assicurazioni Generali, Italy's largest insurer.

Bank Tefahot said yesterday that third-quarter net profit rose 14.9% to NIS 49.3m. from 42.9m. a year ago. In the first nine months of the year net profit amounted to NIS 126m. compared with NIS 121.5m. during the equivalent period in 1996.

The operating income of Israel's largest mortgage bank rose in the last quarter to NIS 64.7m. from NIS 59.6m. a year ago. In the first nine months operating income totaled NIS 191.7m. versus NIS 183.2m. at the corresponding period in 1996.

In a statement, the bank said that its earnings from insurance activities amounted to 20% of its total income.

The insurance supervisor said recently that he intends to forbid mortgage banks from selling insurance policies, a move which is expected to hit banks results.

Union Bank of Israel said yesterday that third-quarter net profit rose 8.5% to NIS 14.1m. from 13m. a year earlier. During the first nine months net profit climbed 12.7% to NIS 45.4m. from NIS 40.3m. in the same period of 1996.

The bank said that earnings from financing operations, before provision for doubtful debts, remained almost unchanged at NIS 259.2m. compared with NIS 258.8m. during the same period last year.

Samsung plans major cutbacks

By JUDY LEE

SEOUL (Bloomberg) - South Koreans yesterday began to see what their president's request to "share the pain" really means as companies announced staff cuts and massive restructuring in the face of the slowest economic growth in nearly two decades.

Samsung - the second largest conglomerate in the world's 11th biggest economy - said it will shift about 30 percent of its 260,000 employees into new jobs, cut management salaries by 10% and slash 27% off 1998 investment. Halla Heavy Industries Co., the country's third-largest shipbuilder, said it will halve its work force to 3,000.

The moves came as research companies owned by some of South Korea's largest companies, including Samsung, predict unemployment could rise as high as 5% next year from 2.2% in 1997. The last time unemployment hit 5% was in 1986. That's particularly worrying in a country where a job for life was seen as the norm and unlimited growth for the giant company groups known as "chaebol" was taken for granted.

That growth, though, was funded with huge loans from Korean banks and by mid-1997 - as countries across Asia were rolled by economic turmoil - it became apparent many of the chaebol were overextended. Indeed, seven of the nation's 40 biggest companies are bankrupt or have admitted they cannot pay their bills.

"Even large chaebol have no choice now but to step back from their never-ending expansion drive because the source of their easy loans are crumbling," said Lee Doo Won, an economics professor at Yonsei University. "There will be a lot of chaos at the beginning of the painful restructuring."

And Korea's government did not escape, either. After weeks of denying the extent of the country's troubles, the government announced Saturday it had approached the IMF for \$20 billion in aid. Many, including the rating agency Standard and Poor's Corp., think that won't be enough to help Korea through the restructuring that's coming. Standard and Poor's cut Korea's long-term credit rating two notches yesterday and warned further downgrades may be in order.

The average Korean company has four times more debt than equity, a dangerous mix when credit becomes as tight as it is now. Korean interest rates hit a six-year high yesterday. A study by the country's central bank found 21 of the 39 top chaebol are focusing investment on their core business, and 23 are cutting operating expenses.

The country's second-biggest union said Monday it is considering a "massive" strike in January to oppose conditions of the IMF bailout.

Bill seeks to increase NII income

By Globes news service

The income tax and VAT authorities will be required to transfer to the National Insurance Institute all their data on taxpayers' income, to increase National Insurance and health tax payments, according to new plans from the Treasury.

In addition, all profits accruing to members of advanced study (Hishalmut) funds will be liable for health and national insurance taxes.

These proposals are part of a new bill to be submitted soon to the Knesset. This week, the bill was sent for scrutiny to a number of leading figures, including the president of the Supreme Court, the attorney-general and the governor of the Bank of Israel.

In recent years, there has been a shortfall of NIS 2 billion annually in the collection of health and national insurance taxes.

In addition, as of next year, new Finance Ministry regulations will allow depositors in provident funds to withdraw their money only upon retirement.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman is expected to approve the new regulations next month. Implementation is contingent on approval by the Knesset Finance Committee.



Courtroom buss for busted tycoon

Disgraced German property tycoon Juergen Schneider kisses his wife Claudia in a Frankfurt courtroom yesterday. Schneider is on trial for falsifying rental contracts to get loans from banks for his group, which failed under billions of marks of debt. *(Reuters)*

VisionTech claims affordable digital video compression chip

By JUDY SEGEL

Herzliya-based VisionTech has announced the development of the first chip of its kind for compression of digital video. The chip makes it possible to put a full-length video film on a single compact disk or digital video disk. It is cheap enough to allow widespread home and commercial uses, the company said.

VisionTech said the chip will

make it possible to watch high-quality video films on a personal computer; it can also be included in still cameras or in video cameras to take high-quality films and store them.

"This is a real revolution, because technologies up to now have been several times as expensive - which allowed video compression only for professionals using studio equipment," the company spokesman said.

The chip was developed in the

Herzliya labs with cooperation from the DML and CSK consortia in Japan. According to VisionTech, several major computer and camera manufacturers in the US and Japan are very interested in buying it.

VisionTech, which will market the product in Europe, the US and Israel, has set up commercial representation in Palm Beach, Florida. CSK and DML will sell it in Japan and the Far East.

US opposes Patents Law amendment

By DAVID HARRIS

The US is still firmly opposed to the planned reform of the Israeli Patents Law, according to a statement issued by the American Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The statement followed reports in the media suggesting the US has no objections to the proposed amendment, under discussion in the Knesset.

The existing law prevents domestic companies from conducting research on drugs whose patents have not yet expired, giving US and European companies, which are not subject to such a law, a head start in developing generic drugs.

Teva, Israel's largest drug maker and a worldwide leader in the generic drug market, has been trying to change the patent law since it was passed in 1994. The company previ-

ously said it is considering moving part of its research and development operations overseas in order to bypass the law.

Teva has the support of Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Chief Scientist Ora Berry.

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MEKOROT WATER CO. LTD.
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Mekorot Water Co. Ltd. invites companies with appropriate facilities and experience to participate in a tender for the supply of 13 sets of diesel generators for continuous output from 500 kW to 1520 kW.

The tender documents and specifications can be purchased at a cost of NIS 1,000 (including VAT), which is non-refundable, from the Supply Department, Mekorot Head Office, 9 Lincoln Street, Tel Aviv (2nd floor, room 214). The tender documents may be perused before purchase.

Bids in which the summary data in the specifications are not filled out properly will not be considered.

A bond in the form of an unconditional bank guarantee from a major Israeli bank, for 5% of the total value of the bid, valid for 90 days, must be submitted with all bids.

Bids should be placed in the tender box at the Supply Department by 12 noon on January 6, 1998. Bids may not be sent by mail.

For more information, contact Eli Melamed, Tel. 03-623-0576. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

Mekorot reserves the right to negotiate with parties whose bids are considered appropriate.

Meir Kazam
Chairman, Tenders Committee

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists various stocks and their performance.

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists international stocks.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Table with columns: Country, Last, Change. Lists exchange rates for various countries.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Index, Last, Change. Lists major US market indices.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: Index, Last, Change. Lists various international market indices.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with columns: Currency, Last, Change. Lists dollar crossrates for various currencies.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists US commodity prices.

LONDON

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists London market data.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Lists Frankfurt market data.

TELVIV SHARES DATA

Text providing information about Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists London commodity prices.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists spot market metal prices.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists New York metal futures prices.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists London metal fix prices.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Text about data communications via ABA.

Text about foreign financial data services.

Text about Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns: Currency, 3 Months, 6 Months, 12 Months. Lists interest rates for various currencies.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (26.11.97)

Table with columns: Currency, Buy, Sell, Rep. Rate. Lists shekel foreign exchange rates.

Text about these rates varying according to bank and Bank of Israel.

Gold slumps to lowest since '85

Precious metals

Gold slumped to its lowest price since March 1985 amid growing expectations of further gold sales by European central banks.

Gold for immediate delivery dropped as much as \$4.40 a gram, or 1.5 percent, to a low of \$294.75 an ounce in London.

Oil

January Brent crude oil prices fell, undermined by perceptions the US doesn't need much crude at present after an industry report showed an unexpected rise in crude oil supplies there.

The rise in US supplies comes after refiners put more crude into their plants and as imports of crude fell.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists commodity prices.

Others

Copper rose. A strike halted production at Europe's largest copper mine, offsetting expectations of weakening demand for the metal in Asia.

Asia

Japanese stocks rose as investors sought refuge from the nation's financial system troubles in top exporters such as Toyota Motor Corp.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average rose 178.02 points, or 1.12%, to 16,045.55.

Wall Street

Blue-chip issues struggled, but stocks were mostly higher yesterday in quiet pre-holiday trading, bolstered by some encouraging economic news.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 14.17 points to 7,794.78 after surrendering an early 37-point gain.

TASE gains boosted by earnings reports

Tel Aviv

Israeli stocks rose yesterday, boosted by better-than-expected quarterly corporate earnings reports and following rises on Wall Street on Tuesday and in Asia and Europe yesterday.

Rising shares included First International Bank of Israel Ltd., which rose 2.25 percent after announcing third-quarter net income rose 19%.

Europe

UK stocks rose following a rebound in Asian markets, quelling some of the concern that has swept markets worldwide in recent weeks.

The FTSE 100 index rose 27.7 points, or 0.57%, to 4,891.2, having earlier risen as high as 4,907.3.

STOCKS

Table with columns: Index, Last, Change. Lists major stock indices.

Asia

Investors are sticking to the blue chips: safe, quality companies, independent of the banking system and likely to benefit from a cheap yen.

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Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists US commodity prices.

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Mark declines to four-week low

US Bonds

The dollar rose to a four-week high against the mark as economic reports showed the US economy is healthy footing, and on expectations that Germany won't soon raise interest rates.

Europe

UK stocks rose following a rebound in Asian markets, quelling some of the concern that has swept markets worldwide in recent weeks.

CURRENCIES

Table with columns: Currency, Last, Change. Lists currency exchange rates.

Asia

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Wall Street

Blue-chip issues struggled, but stocks were mostly higher yesterday in quiet pre-holiday trading, bolstered by some encouraging economic news.

US bonds little changed after economic reports

US Bonds

US bonds were little changed after reports showing slower-than-expected third-quarter economic growth and a drop in jobless claims.

Europe

UK stocks rose following a rebound in Asian markets, quelling some of the concern that has swept markets worldwide in recent weeks.

BONDS

Table with columns: Bond, Last, Change. Lists bond yields.

Asia

Investors are sticking to the blue chips: safe, quality companies, independent of the banking system and likely to benefit from a cheap yen.

Wall Street

Blue-chip issues struggled, but stocks were mostly higher yesterday in quiet pre-holiday trading, bolstered by some encouraging economic news.

LEVINE

They are either pushing for stronger action against Hizbullah and Amal fighters to wipe out the guerrillas once and for all, or to withdraw unilaterally.

EITAN

Meanwhile, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, who openly declared his rebellion against Netanyahu, is getting ready to launch his new centrist party.

WHERE TO GO

- Emergency services, hospitals, pharmacies, and other contact information.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

- General assistance services, including crisis centers and support groups.

TELVIV MUSEUMS

- Information about museums and cultural events in Tel Aviv.

SPORTS

in brief

Ryder Cup shot wins award for Monty

LONDON (Reuters) — Colin Montgomerie's final tee shot in the Ryder Cup at Valderrama in September has earned him the European Tour's Shot of the Year award for the second successive year.

Montgomerie struck his three-wood tee shot at the 18th hole of his singles against Scott Hoch over the trees on to the middle of a sloping fairway as he won the hole and his match to ensure Europe outright victory as they retained the Cup.

"It is the best tee shot I have ever struck in my life," Montgomerie said. "I always use a three wood at that hole. The idea is to hit it high over the trees and land it soft. I managed that and also got the length I was looking for as the ball travelled 280 yards." Montgomerie, Europe's top player for five successive years, also won the 1996 award for his second shot over a lake at the par-five final hole of the Emirates Course in Dubai during the Desert Classic, which ensured he won that title.

Collated UEFA Cup third round, first leg results

In Enschede: Twente Enschede (Netherlands) 0 Auxerre (France) 1
 Scorer: Bernard Diomede 70 Halftime: 0-0; Attendance: 10,000.

In Karlsruhe: Karlsruhe SC (Germany) 0 Spartak Moscow (Russia) 0 Aft: 12,000.

In Bucharest: Steaua Bucharest (Romania) 2 Aston Villa (England) 1
 Scorer: Steaua — Michael Oakes 30, Cristian Ciocciu 32 Aston Villa — Dwight Yorke 54 Halftime: 2-0; Aft: 22,000.

In Vienna: Rapid Vienna (Austria) 0 Lazio (Italy) 2
 Scorer: Pierluigi Casiraghi 38, Roberto Mancini 62 Red Cards: Oliver Freund (Rapid Vienna) 57 Roberto Mancini (Lazio) 63 Halftime: 0-1; Aft: 30,000.

In Zagreb: Croatia Zagreb (Croatia) 1 Atletico Madrid (Spain) 1
 Scorer: Croatia — Edin Mujčin 2 Atletico — Jose Luis Caminero 61 Halftime: 1-0; Aft: 40,000.

In Amsterdam: Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 4 VfL Bochum (Germany) 2
 Scorer: Ajax — Michael Laudrup 34, 36, Shota Arveladze 38, Frank de Boer 45 VfL Bochum — Thomas Reis 20, Tomasz Walski 24 Halftime: 4-2; Aft: 51,000.

In Strasbourg: Strasbourg (France) 2 Inter Milan (Italy) 0
 Scorer: Gerard Badier 11, Valerian Ismael 19 Halftime: 2-0; Attendance: 25,000.

In Braga: Braga (Portugal) 0 Schalke 04 (Germany) 0 Aft: 22,000.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER — Results of first round replays in the English FA Cup on Tuesday: Basingstoke 2, Wycombe 2 after extra time (90 minutes); 2-2, Basingstoke won 5-4 on penalties; Bury 0, Rotherham 3; Cambridge 3, Plymouth 2 after extra time (90 minutes); 2-2, Cardiff 3, Slough 2 after extra time (90 minutes); 2-2, Colchester 0, Brentford 0 after extra time (Colchester was 4-3 on penalties); Exley 3, Havercombe 3 after extra time (90 minutes); 1-1, Exley won 3-1 on penalties; Gillingham 2, Lincoln City 3; Gillingham 0, Bristol Rovers 2; Grimsby 4, Shrewsbury 0; Leyton Orient 0, Reading 1; Mansfield 0, Oldham 1; Northampton 2, Exeter 1.

MIAMI (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers finally lost their first game of the season Tuesday night as Tim Hardaway and Jamal Mashburn led a second-half surge that carried the Miami Heat to a 103-86 victory.

The Lakers, playing without center Shaquille O'Neal, had their season-opening win streak snapped at 11 games, four short of the best start in league history.

Mashburn and Hardaway scored 22 points each and Isaac Austin had 19 points and nine rebounds for Miami.

Nick Van Exel finished with 21 points to pace Los Angeles.

Spurs 102, Mavericks 91

In Dallas, David Robinson had 22 points and 11 rebounds, Sean Elliott added 19 points and San Antonio withstood a second-half rally to hand Dallas its 10th straight defeat.

Cory Alexander added 17 points and Tim Duncan had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who had lost four of their previous five.

Michael Finley scored 20 points, Shawn Bradley had 16 and Dennis

Scott 15 for the Mavericks, who are winless since a 3-0 start.

Hornets 90, Pistons 85

In Charlotte, North Carolina, the smallest crowd at Charlotte Coliseum in nearly nine years saw Glen Rice capitalize on early foul trouble by Grant Hill and send the Hornets over Detroit.

Rice had 21 points to help Charlotte improve its best-ever start to 9-3. The Hornets, winning their fifth in a row overall and their sixth straight at home, also got 17 points from Matt Geiger

and 15 rebounds from Anthony Mason.

Brian Williams had 27 points and 10 rebounds as Detroit lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

SuperSonics 91, Bulls 90

In Seattle, Vin Baker made a 17-foot baseline jumper over 7-footer Luc Longley with three seconds left to give Seattle the narrow 91-90 victory.

Gary Payton led the Sonics with 22 and Baker added 19.

Toni Kukoc had a season-high 30 points and Michael Jordan

scored 26 for Chicago.

Nets 101, Warriors 87

In Oakland, California, Kerry Kittles and Sam Cassell scored 18 points apiece as New Jersey kept Golden State winless at home.

Kendall Gill added 16, Chris Gatling 14 and Jayson Williams 12 for the Nets, who swept the season series State and improved to 8-4, the best record to start a season in franchise history.

Kings 97, Nuggets 93

In Sacramento, California, Corliss Williamson scored four of his season-high 24 points in the final nine seconds to lift Sacramento over winless Denver.

The Nuggets, who overcame a 16-point deficit in the third quarter, lost their 12th game in a row. Sacramento won for the fourth time in its last five games.

Sacramento held a 71-55 lead with 3:50 to go in the third quarter before the Nuggets rallied behind 7-foot-4, 325-pound Priest Lauderdale. The seldom-used Lauderdale scored a career-high 12 points in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter to pull Denver into an 83-83 tie.

Heat hand Lakers first loss of season 103-86

Exhausted Iran pray for historic win

MELBOURNE (Reuters) — Travel-weary Iran yesterday declared themselves underdogs for Saturday's play-off against Australia for the final World Cup berth, despite the return of top midfielder Karim Bagheri.

The Iranian team, met in Melbourne by a heave and a small band of expatriate Iranians, failed to turn up to a state reception after their arrival, citing exhaustion after skirting the globe for more than 40 hours.

Representing them, team manager Ali Mandussifar said the home team would have the edge on Saturday night, having survived the first play-off with a 1-1 draw in Teheran and looking to draw before a huge crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"They have their crowd here so that's understandable. For the first time Australia would like to go to the World Cup with their whole nation behind them," Mandussifar said.

Australian soccer officials hope 90,000 people will pack the country's premier sports venue for the match, which will decide the final qualifier for the World Cup in France.

Australia's Socceros, coached by former England manager Terry Venables, are aiming for their second appearance in the World Cup finals. They qualified for the 1974 finals after beating Iran in the play-offs.

Iran's only previous appearance in the finals was in 1978.

Mandussifar dismissed any suggestion of ill feeling towards Australia, saying the team's failure to attend the state reception had nothing to do with a recent war of words off the field.

The two sides swapped insults before last week's fiery encounter in Teheran, with Iran taking offence at Australian jibes.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| Atlantic Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------------|---|----|------|-------|
| Miami | 9 | 4 | .692 | - |
| New York | 9 | 4 | .692 | - |
| Orlando | 9 | 4 | .692 | - |
| New Jersey | 8 | 4 | .667 | 1/2 |
| Boston | 7 | 6 | .538 | 2 |
| Philadelphia | 3 | 7 | .300 | 4 1/2 |
| Washington | 4 | 10 | .286 | 5 1/2 |

| Central Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------------|----|----|------|-------|
| Atlanta | 11 | 2 | .846 | - |
| Charlotte | 9 | 3 | .750 | 1 1/2 |
| Milwaukee | 6 | 5 | .553 | 3 1/2 |
| Chicago | 6 | 5 | .553 | 3 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 6 | 6 | .500 | 4 1/2 |
| Indiana | 5 | 6 | .455 | 5 |
| Detroit | 5 | 10 | .333 | 7 1/2 |
| Toronto | 5 | 12 | .294 | 8 1/2 |

Tuesday's games: Charlotte 90, Detroit 85; Miami 103, LA Lakers 86; San Antonio 102, Dallas 91; Seattle 91, Chicago 90; New Jersey 101, Golden State 87; Sacramento 97, Denver 83.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| Midwest Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------------|---|----|------|-------|
| San Antonio | 8 | 5 | .615 | - |
| Houston | 6 | 5 | .545 | 1 |
| Utah | 7 | 6 | .538 | 1 |
| Minnesota | 6 | 6 | .500 | 1 1/2 |
| Vancouver | 6 | 6 | .500 | 2 1/2 |
| Dallas | 3 | 10 | .231 | 5 |
| Denver | 0 | 12 | .000 | 7 1/2 |

| Pacific Division | W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------------|----|----|------|--------|
| LA Lakers | 11 | 1 | .917 | - |
| Seattle | 11 | 3 | .786 | 1 |
| Phoenix | 7 | 2 | .778 | 2 1/2 |
| Portland | 9 | 4 | .692 | 2 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 5 | 8 | .385 | 6 1/2 |
| Golden State | 1 | 11 | .083 | 10 1/2 |
| LA Clippers | 1 | 12 | .077 | 10 1/2 |

NHL summaries

San Jose 0, Toronto 1
 First Period—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Second Period—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Third Period—0, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Total Goals—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Shots—12, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 14, San Jose.
 Penalties—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 1, San Jose, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Time on Ice—1:25, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 1:25, San Jose, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Faceoffs—12, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 12, San Jose, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Blocked Shots—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 1, San Jose, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Hits—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 1, San Jose, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Offsides—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 1, San Jose, Kozlov 7 (Shelton).
 Goals by Period—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 0, San Jose.
 Goals by Player—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 0, San Jose.
 Goals by Team—1, Toronto, Kozlov 7 (Shelton); 0, San Jose.

St. Louis

St. Louis 0, Phoenix 1
 First Period—1, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley).
 Second Period—0, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley).
 Third Period—0, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley).
 Total Goals—1, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley).
 Shots—12, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley); 14, St. Louis.
 Penalties—1, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley); 1, St. Louis, Coram 4 (Stanley).
 Time on Ice—1:25, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley); 1:25, St. Louis, Coram 4 (Stanley).
 Faceoffs—12, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley); 12, St. Louis, Coram 4 (Stanley).
 Blocked Shots—1, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley); 1, St. Louis, Coram 4 (Stanley).
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 Goals by Period—1, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley); 0, St. Louis.
 Goals by Player—1, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley); 0, St. Louis.
 Goals by Team—1, Phoenix, Coram 4 (Stanley); 0, St. Louis.

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Inside

Heat hand Lakers first loss of season
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffmann & Ori Lewis

Swedes pin Davis Cup hopes on Bjorkman

GOTHENBURG (AP) — At the start of the year, Jonas Bjorkman was ranked No. 69 in the world, a respected doubles player with no singles title to his name.

Eleven months later, the Swedish hopes of upsetting the US in the Davis Cup final rest on Bjorkman, who has soared to No. 4 in the world.

The draw for the tie will be made today, with the opening singles tomorrow, the doubles on Saturday and the reverse singles on Sunday.

The Swedish team got a boost yesterday when Nicklas Kulti, who could play the doubles, was passed fit.

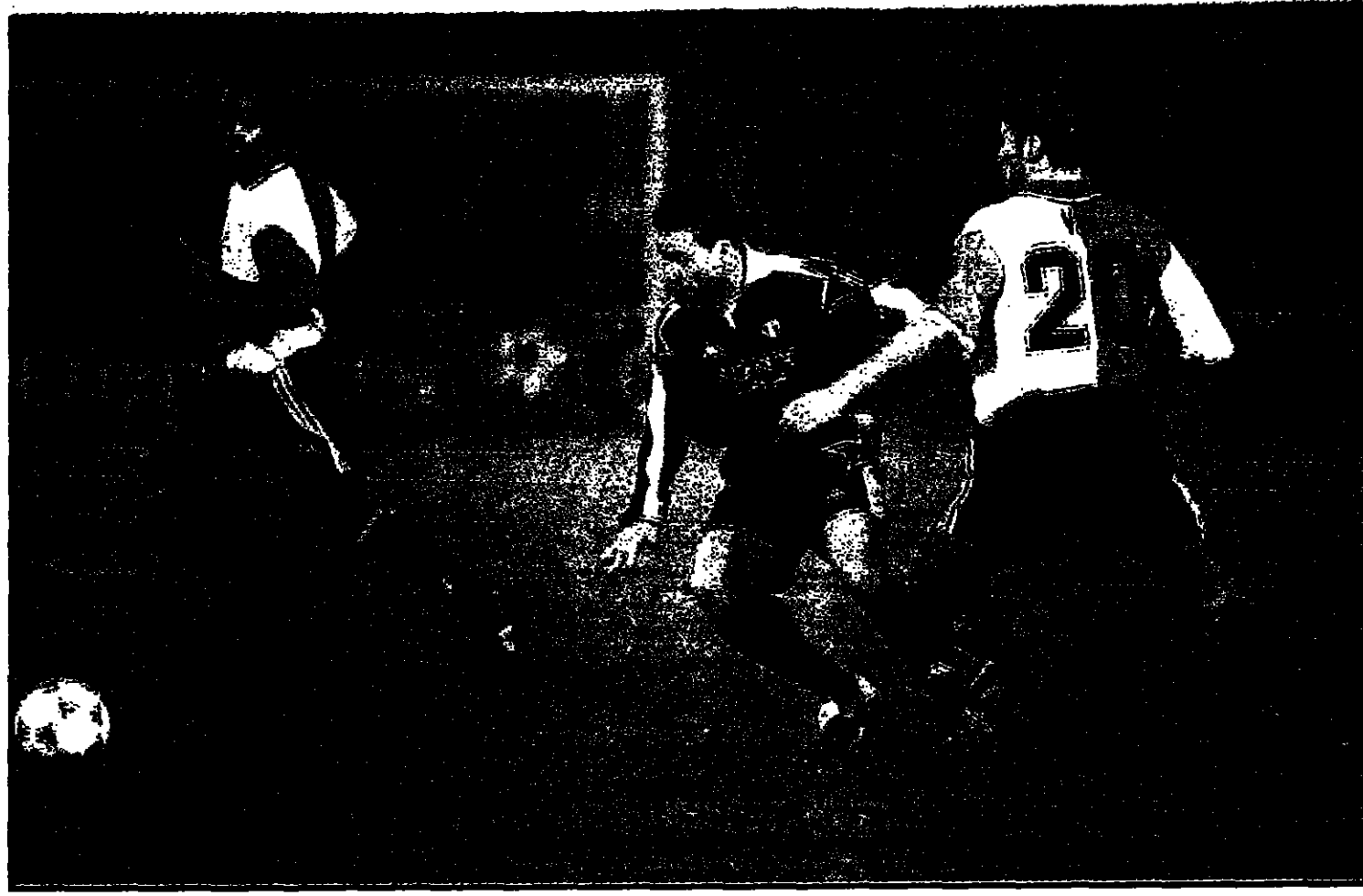
Sweden, runners-up to France last year, are playing their 11th Davis Cup final and have won five times.

The US, on the other hand, are appearing in their 59th final and have won the coveted title 31 times. The Americans lead the Swedes 7-2 in Davis Cup play, but both defeats came in Gothenburg.

The Americans are favored this time too. With Pete Sampras No. 1 in the world and Michael Chang No. 3, the rankings speak for the Americans. While Bjorkman is No. 4, Magnus Larsson, expected to be the second singles player, is No. 25.

Bjorkman will probably have to win both singles and perhaps earn another in doubles for Sweden to pull off an upset. But he is 1-7 against Sampras in career matches.

Competing the American team are Todd Martin and Jonathan Stark, while the fourth member of the Swedish team is Thomas Enqvist.



Feynoord's Henk Vos (No. 20) tries to stop Juve's Alessandro Birindelli during their match in Rotterdam as Feynoord's Giovanni van Bronckhorst eyes the opposition.

Feynoord's Cruz sinks Juve 2-0

ROTTERDAM (Reuters) — Argentinian striker Julio Cruz scored two second half goals as Feynoord sank Juventus 2-0 in their European Champions League group B match last night.

The result means that group leaders Manchester United need only to draw against Kosice at home tonight to ensure their place in the last eight.

After a goalless first half in which the Dutch team frustrated Juventus' build-up with some resolute defending, Cruz opened the score in the 66th minute with a powerful shot from just inside the box.

Two minutes from time Cruz made sure of the points when he wrestled through the Italian defence to beat goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi from close range.

The win avenged Feynoord's 5-1 defeat to Juventus in the opening Champions League match in September and continued their improvement under new coach Leo Beenhakker.

Besiktas 0, Bayern Munich 2
In Istanbul, Bayern Munich

raised their hopes for a berth in the quarterfinals by beating Turkey's Besiktas 2-0.

The victory kept Bayern Munich on top of Group E with 12 points. Besiktas have six.

Bayern scored an early goal in the fifth minute when Carsten Jancker, receiving a long overhead pass from Michael Tarnat, headed the ball into the net.

In the 31st minute, Thomas Helmer scored his team's second goal with a header, again after receiving a pass from Tarnat.

The match was played under floodlights before 30,000 Turks and 500 Germans at the Inonu stadium.

IFK Gothenburg 0, PSG 1
In Gothenburg, Eric

Rabesandratana struck three minutes from time to give 10-man Paris St Germain a 1-0 victory over IFK Gothenburg and keep alive their hopes of a quarter-final place.

The midfielder headed home a cross from Franck Gava to win a match dominated by the Swedes.

PSG's Jimmy Algerino was sent

off 12 minutes from time but the Frenchmen rallied to claim the win that takes them to nine points.

Barcelona 1, Newcastle 0

In Barcelona, a superb lobbed goal from Brazilian midfielder Giovanni provided the highlight of Barcelona's largely lackluster 1-0 victory over Newcastle United.

With Barcelona already out of contention, a mere 25,000 fans turned up for the group C clash. The result effectively ended Newcastle's hopes of qualifying for the knockout stage and provided the Spaniards with their first victory in the group.

Monaco 3, Sporting Lisbon 2
In Monaco, an injury time goal from Thierry Henry helped Monaco bounce back from a poor start to beat Sporting Lisbon 3-2 in their group F clash.

Sporting, who beat Monaco 3-0 in Portugal in their group match in September, seemed to be heading towards another victory with two first-half goals from striker Luis Miguel and captain Oceano.

But the French champions drew

level with goals from their striking pair David Trezeguet and Henry in the 65th and 75th minutes respectively before Henry scored the late winner.

Monaco retained the top spot in the group but they are level on 12 points with second-placed Bayer Leverkusen of Germany.

Lierse 0, Bayer Leverkusen 2
In Brussels, Bayer Leverkusen, scored twice in the second half to beat Belgium's Lierse 2-0 away and stay on course for a quarter-final place.

The Germans survived the last 20 minutes with 10 men after captain Markus Happe was sent off.

Monaco clung on to top spot in group F ahead of Leverkusen on goal difference.

There was little drama in Brussels until Brazilian Emerson cut in between two defenders to hammer the ball past veteran Belgian goalkeeper Philippe Vande Walle in the 54th minute.

Ulf Kirsten netted the second 12 minutes later, following up after his initial shot hit the bar.

Israel cruise to easy win over Belarus

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

They may not be the dream team, but the members of Israel's National basketball team could sleep soundly last night after the dreamy performance they put on in routing Belarus 95-64 at Yad Eliahu in the group C opener of the European Championships preliminary round.

While the second half of the game may have been sleep inducing, after Israel racked up a huge 31-27 halftime lead, it's been a while since our national team has had a laugh, and a while since it displaced such selfless team play.

From the tip-off, every player on the team gave their all, playing suffocating defense or finding the open man repeatedly on offense, both a tribute to new national team coach Muli Katzurin.

Katzurin showed what he must have been doing during his long vacation from the courts as he shuffled players with aplomb and seemed to have inspired his charges with his own team-first attitude.

Tomer Steinhauer got Israel off to a roaring start, scoring the hosts' first nine points as Israel opened a quick 12-5 lead. Then it was Nadav Henefeld's turn to get into the act.

The Maccabi Tel Aviv forward seemed to flourish playing team ball, ending up with 12 points and five of Israel's 25 assists.

The under-manned Belarus squad, which had several key players miss the game while playing college ball in the US, relied solely on Alexei Pintikov (20 points) and Andrei Klemez, but could do little to stop the Israeli juggernaut.

Doron Sheffer, who led Israel with 18 points, repeatedly took his defender inside to score easy hoops and had 12 in the first-half. Amir Katz came off the bench to pop two three-pointers in the half and Guy Goodes, on loan to Italian second division

club Caserta, also got into the act, hoisting up a three-pointer that marked his return to the national team since a knee injury put his career in jeopardy.

What delighted the almost capacity crowd of some 8,000 was the passing and self-sacrificing that resulted in some beautiful fast breaks. Israel's running game never looked as good as it did last night, and while it was, admittedly, against poor opposition, it bodes extremely well for the future.

Katzurin, anxious to get everyone into the act, made sure the whole bench also saw action.

When Oded Katash was forced to the sidelines in the second half with a brief recurrence of a nagging foot injury, Israel hardly missed him, as Goodes, Katz and Lior Arditi filled the gap.

A three-pointer by Goodes, who scored 12 points and had four assists, with just over 10 minutes to play, gave Israel a 30-point lead it barely relinquished along the way. Uri Cohen-Mintz had a three-pointer, as did Arditi just before the buzzer, giving Israel 10 treys on the night.

Katzurin and his assistant, David Blatt, couldn't have asked for a better way to start their reign at the helm of the national team, and last night's performance should go far towards boosting Israel's hopes of beating Ukraine on Saturday night. Something the strong Spanish squad, the seeded team in group C, accomplished last night 83-66.

Next Wednesday night, Israel travels to Denmark, who lost to visitors England 72-64 last night.

It may still be too early for Katzurin and his charges to enroll for French lessons prior to the European Championships in 1999, but after last night's convincing win, Katzurin may want to take his players to dinner at a good French restaurant to whet their appetite for even better things to come.

Pippen still eyeing Chicago exit

SEATTLE (Reuters) — Chicago Bulls coach Phil Jackson said Scottie Pippen was just joking when he demanded a trade, but two days later, the seven-time All-Star still wasn't laughing.

Asked Tuesday in Seattle if he thought he would ever play for the defending NBA champions again, the injured forward said gravely: "I don't think so." Pippen added: "I'd rather leave things as I can remember them as a player here, and go on."

Pippen said he still had "a lot of respect" for his teammates and the fans in Chicago. "But I have to look out for myself," he said. "I just feel I've been treated unfairly."

On Sunday, Pippen — who is sidelined until mid-December with an injured left foot — told a Chicago area newspaper, the *Arlington Heights Daily Herald*, that he "ain't coming back" and demanded a trade to either the Phoenix Suns or the Los Angeles Lakers.

He called Bulls general manager Jerry Krause a "chicken" and said Krause threatened to fine him if he played in his own charity game in September.

At Monday's practice in Seattle, Pippen refused to elaborate except to say that he is not physically ready to return to action.

Jackson said Monday he was not convinced Pippen wanted out.

"I think he's just joking the press," said Jackson, who is almost certainly in his final year as coach of the Bulls.

"I think he's having fun, throwing out a barb."

Pippen is in the final year of a contract that pays him \$2.775 million this season, a relatively paltry amount for one of the league's top players.

He is expected to command a multi-year contract averaging \$10 million to \$15 million per season in the free agent market.

If Krause does not deal him by the February 19 trading deadline, he risks getting nothing for him.

The 32-year-old Pippen has not played this season. He was injured in last season's Eastern Conference semifinals and had surgery in October. His projected return was anywhere from mid-December to early January, and he cannot be traded until deemed healthy.

Pippen took part in the first half of Monday's practice until his foot became sore.

Pippen averaged 20.2 points, 6.2 rebounds and 5.7 assists per game last season, helping the Bulls win their fifth title in seven years.

Krause has dangled Pippen as trade bait several times. While Krause spent nearly \$38 million to keep fellow superstars Jordan and Dennis Rodman for another season, he tried to deal Pippen to the Boston Celtics on draft day. In 1995, he tried to trade Pippen to the Seattle SuperSonics for Shawn Kemp.

Without Pippen, the Bulls have struggled to an 8-6 mark following Tuesday night's 91-90 loss to Seattle. Last season, Chicago did not lose its fifth game until January 21.

A member of the 1992 and 1996 Olympic gold medal teams, Pippen last year was voted one of the NBA's 50 greatest players of all time. He has been named to the NBA all-defensive first team for the last six years.

Messier returns to New York, helps Canucks beat Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Messier made a triumphant return to New York as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Rangers 4-2 Tuesday night in an emotion-filled night at Madison Square Garden.

Messier scored the Canucks' second goal of the game on a classic breakaway that Ranger fans had seen many times over the last six years when he played in New York. The goal stood as the game-winner until Tim Sweeney scored for New York with three seconds left.

It was a gigantic "love-in" for Messier from start to finish, as fans cheered his first appearance on the ice for warmups and then his recognition as the game's first star at the end of the game.

It was Messier's first return to Madison Square Garden since leaving the Rangers this past summer to sign as a free agent with the Canucks.

David Seatchard, Pavel Bure and Mike Sillinger scored the other goals for Vancouver, which is 3-1-1 since former Rangers coach Mike Keenan took over behind the bench.

Leafs 3, Sharks 1
In Toronto, the Maple Leafs, the lowest-scoring team in the NHL, broke out for three goals to defeat San Jose.

The Leafs, shut out 2-0 by Phoenix

one of the league's top players.

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On Saturday, were averaging just 1.9 goals a game before the win.

Igor Korolev, Derek King and Alyn McCauley scored for the Leafs. Jarrod Skalde ruined Felix Potvin's bid for a shutout with less than two minutes to play.

Blackhawks 2, Oilers 2
In Edmonton, Alberta, Eric Daze's goal at 18:45 of the second period earned Chicago the tie.

Striking out of his own end, Daze was left alone as he raced into the Oilers zone and registered his seventh goal of the year, tipping in a perfect pass from Sergei Krivokrasov just as a Blackhawks' power play expired.

Jeff Shantz had the other goal for Chicago, playing the fourth game of

a five-game road trip that has netted the club five points.

Ryan Smyth and Rem Murray scored for Edmonton, which was looking for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Coyotes 3, Blues 2
In Phoenix, both Bob Coram and Teppo Numminen had a goal and an assist, and Nikolai Khabibulin made 26 saves. Phoenix won for the fourth time in five games.

Rick Tocchet also scored for the Coyotes, who won for the seventh time in their last nine home games.

Darren Turcotte and Steve Duchesne scored for the Blues, who dropped their third straight game. They have totaled just four goals in their last four games.

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division
W L T Pts GF GA
Detroit 18 6 4 34 84 59
Dallas 15 7 4 34 82 61
St. Louis 15 6 2 32 74 55
Phoenix 12 9 2 26 70 62
Chicago 9 13 3 21 54 65
Toronto 8 12 3 19 45 63

Pacific Division
Colorado 11 6 7 29 71 81
Los Angeles 11 8 4 26 78 84
Anaheim 9 11 5 23 58 72
San Jose 9 12 2 20 68 78
Edmonton 7 12 6 20 67 78
Vancouver 7 14 3 17 65 83
Calgary 4 15 6 14 62 81

Tuesday's games: Vancouver 4, NY Rangers 2; Toronto 3, San Jose 1; Phoenix 3, St. Louis 2; Chicago 2, Edmonton 2, tie.

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION MUST ALSO HONOR AGREEMENTS

On January 15, 1997 Former U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher assured Prime Minister Netanyahu:

"I have impressed upon Chairman Arafat the imperative need for the Palestinian Authority to make every effort to ensure public order and internal security within the West Bank and Gaza Strip. I have stressed to him that effectively carrying out this major responsibility will be a critical foundation for completing implementation of the Interim Agreement, as well as the peace process as a whole."

In Addition U.S. Mideast envoy Dennis Ross endorsed the commitments that Arafat promised to honor:

1. To complete the process of amending the Palestinian National Covenant.
2. To fight terror and prevent violence.
3. To strengthen cooperation in security issues.
4. To fight terror organizations in a systematic and efficient manner.
5. To capture and try terrorists.
6. To extradite terrorists in accord with the Oslo Agreements.
7. To confiscate illegal weapons.
8. To reduce the size of the Palestinian police as set forth in the Oslo Agreements.
9. To close the offices of the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem.



The Israeli government in its approval of the Hebron Agreement stated:

"The main condition for the continuation of the Oslo Agreement is mutual compliance."

Arafat and the Palestinian Authority have not complied with these U.S. guarantees:

- They have not completed the amendment of the Palestinian National Covenant
- They have not fought terror and prevented violence
- They have not prevented incitement and hostile propaganda
- They have not fought terror organizations in a systematic and efficient manner
- They have not captured or tried terrorists
- They have not extradited terrorists in accords with the Oslo Accord
- They have not confiscated illegal weapons
- They have not reduced the size of the Palestinian Police as agreed in Oslo
- They have not closed the offices of the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem

Even those committed to continuing with Oslo, must realize that the Agreements are not proceed until the United States Government insists on compliance from the Palestinian Authority rather than bullying Israel into accepting non-compliance.

Yesha Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza

Handwritten text in Hebrew: מוסדות יהודיים